Women’s Studies 2024-25

- **Home Girls**: A Black Feminist Anthology (Edited by Barbara Smith)
- **Shall Not Be Denied**: Women Fight for the Vote (Official Companion to the Library of Congress Exhibition)
- **Mary Climbs In**: The Journeys of Bruce Springsteen’s Women Fans (Lorraine Mangione and Donna Luff)
- **Women & New Hollywood**: Gender, Creative Labor & 1970s American Cinema (Edited by Aaron Hunter & Martha Shearer)
- **Best Actress**: The History of Oscar® Winning Women (Stephen Tapert)
- **Badass Feminist Politics**: Exploring Radical Edges of Feminist Theory, Communication, and Activism (Edited by Sarah Jane Blithe & Janell C. Bauer)
The Georgia of the North
Black Women and the Civil Rights Movement in New Jersey

HETTIE V. WILLIAMS

The Georgia of the North is a historical narrative about Black women and the long civil rights movement in New Jersey from the Great Migration to 1954. Specifically, the critical role played by Black women in forging interracial, cross-class, and cross-gender alliances at the local and national level and their role in securing the passage of progressive civil rights legislation in the Garden State are at the core of this book. This narrative is largely defined by a central question: How and why did New Jersey’s Black leaders, community members, and women in particular affect major civil rights legislation, legal equality, and integration a decade before the Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas decision? In this analysis, the history of the early Black freedom struggle in New Jersey is predicated on the argument that the civil rights movement began in New Jersey and that Black women were central actors in this struggle.

HETTIE V. WILLIAMS is an associate professor of history at Monmouth University in Long Branch, New Jersey. Her previous books include A Seat at the Table: Black Women Public Intellectuals in U.S. History and Culture; Bury My Heart in a Free Land: Black Women Intellectuals in Modern U.S. History; Race and the Obama Phenomenon: The Vision of a More Perfect Multiracial Union; and We Shall Overcome to We Shall Overrun: The Collapse of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Revolt 1962–1968.

Ceres: Rutgers Studies in History
“Feeling Democracy sounds like a paradoxical practice as the normative foundation of liberal democracy is rationality. This book gives profound argumentations and examples to disentangle the emotional power dynamics in democracies from a global feminist and intersectional perspective. Feeling Democracy is especially important in times of right-wing challenges to liberal democracy and right-wing antagonistic affective mobilization across the globe.”

—Birgit Sauer, coauthor of Governing Affects: Neoliberalism, Neo-Bureaucracies, and Service Work

Cultural critic Lauren Berlant wrote that “politics is always emotional,” and her words hold especially true for politics in the twenty-first century. From Obama to Trump, from Black Lives Matter to the anti-abortion movement, politicians and activists appeal to hope, fear, anger, and pity, all amplified by social media.

The essays in Feeling Democracy examine how both reactionary and progressive politics are driven largely by emotional appeals to the public. The contributors in this collection cover everything from immigrants’ rights movements to white nationalist rallies to show how solidarities forged around gender, race, and sexuality become catalysts for a passionate democratic politics. Some essays draw parallels between today’s activist strategies and the use of emotion in women-led radical movements from the 1960s and 1970s, while others expand the geographic scope of the collection by considering Asian decolonial politics and Egyptian pro-democracy protests.

Incorporating scholarship from fields as varied as law, political science, philosophy, psychoanalysis, and history, Feeling Democracy considers how emotional rhetoric in politics can be a double-edged sword—often wielded by authoritarian populists who seek to undermine democracy but sometimes helping to bring about a genuine renewal of participatory democracy.

SARAH TOBIAS is the executive director of the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University and affiliate faculty in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. She is the coeditor of Trans Studies: The Challenge to Hetero/Homo Normativities (Rutgers University Press) and, with Arlene Stein, The Perils of Populism (Rutgers University Press).

ARLENE STEIN is a distinguished professor of sociology at Rutgers University. She is the author or editor of nine books, including Unbound: Transgender Men and the Remaking of Identity.

The Feminist Bookshelf: Ideas for the 21st Century
New Edition of a Classic
The Truth That Never Hurts
25th anniversary edition
Writings on Race, Gender, and Freedom

BARBARA SMITH

“A provocative collection of impassioned essays written from a radical, gay, African-American, feminist perspective. Smith, co-founder and publisher of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, has been publishing literary and social criticism for over 20 years. As a literary critic, she chastises the academic establishment for often misinterpreting and largely disregarding the voices of black women—gay black women in particular. In one of her most influential essays, ‘Toward a Black Feminist Criticism,’ written in 1977, Smith, contending that ‘black women writers constitute an identifiable literary tradition,’ pleads for a black feminist approach toward examining literature. Only the black feminist critic, she argues, is fully able to comprehend the nuances of work by black women, such as the depth of Sula and Nell’s relationship in Toni Morrison’s novel Sula. Smith is also critical of nonlesbians addressing the black lesbian experience. In ‘The Truth that Never Hurts,’ published in the late ’80s, she argues that positive depictions of black lesbians are sorely lacking and that ‘far too many non-lesbian black women who are actively involved in defining the African-American women’s literary renaissance . . . completely ignore black lesbian existence or are actively hostile to it.’ Smith’s equally fervent social and political writings are informed by a Marxist viewpoint. She argues, sometimes unpersuasively, that heterosexism and sexism can wither only when capitalism is destroyed. She’s especially concerned about the lack of role models for gay black youth; and she takes to task her gay brothers and sisters who have chosen to stay closeted because they are ‘more concerned with their individual security and careers than they are with building community and working for radical political change.’ This manifesto is always challenging and often convincing.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Barbara Smith has been doing groundbreaking work since the early 1970s, describing a Black feminism for Black women. This collection contains some of her major essays on Black women’s literature, Black lesbian writing, racism in the women’s movement, Black-Jewish relations, and homophobia in the Black community. Her forays into these areas ignited dialogue about topics that few other writers were addressing at the time, and which, sadly, remain pertinent to this day. This twenty-fifth anniversary edition, in a beautiful new package, retains the urgency these essays had when they were first written.

BARBARA SMITH is an author, activist, and independent scholar who has played a groundbreaking role in opening up a national cultural and political dialogue about the intersections of race, class, sexuality, and gender.

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Women’s Studies • African American Studies
LGBTQ+ Studies

“Barbara Smith is visionaries, courageous, and insightful. Her work provides a crucial challenge to all of us.”
—Cornel West

“At every moment of serious political crisis—and no thinking person can argue that ours is not such a moment—certain writers step forward with words that seem to ring from the very heart of history. Barbara Smith is certainly one of these writers, and her new book, electrifying, thought-provoking, illuminating, eloquent, harsh, and funny, is essential reading. Whether you agree with everything she says is not important; the essays in this book will revivify your heart and mind and reawaken a passion for activism and for justice.”
—Tony Kushner

“In these essays, Smith, an independent scholar and editor, explores several explosive issues, among them sexual politics, racism and women’s studies, and homophobia.”
—Library Journal

Rutgers University Press • Women’s Studies SS24
New Edition of a Classic
Home Girls, 40th Anniversary Edition
A Black Feminist Anthology
EDITED BY BARBARA SMITH

“The survival of these women and their joy makes Home Girls very satisfying.”
—Essence

“Pungent and varied, full of questions, convictions, and insights.”
—The Nation

“It is fitting that Home Girls also reflects and celebrates the difference, among the [thirty-three] Black feminist writers, critics, and theorists assembled from the United States and the Caribbean, among Black women of all colors, classes, and cultures. More importantly, it reflects and celebrates our connections.”
—Women's Review of Books

Home Girls, the pioneering anthology of Black feminist thought, features writing by Black feminist and lesbian activists on topics both provocative and profound. Since its initial publication in 1983, it has become an essential text on Black women’s lives and contains work by many of feminism’s foremost thinkers. This edition features an updated list of contributor biographies and an all-new preface that provides Barbara Smith the opportunity to look back on forty years of the struggle, as well as the influence the work in this book has had on generations of feminists. The preface from the previous Rutgers edition remains, as well as all of the original pieces, set in a fresh new package.


BARBARA SMITH is an author, activist, and independent scholar who has played a groundbreaking role in opening up a national cultural and political dialogue about the intersections of race, class, sexuality, and gender.
There She Goes Again
Gender, Power, and Knowledge in Contemporary Film and Television Franchises
AVIVA DOVE-VIEBAHN

There She Goes Again interrogates the representation of ostensibly powerful women in transmedia franchises, examining how presumed feminine traits—love, empathy, altruism, diplomacy—are alternately lauded and repudiated as possibilities for effecting long-lasting social change. By questioning how these franchises reimagine their protagonists over time, the book reflects on the role that gendered exceptionalism plays in social and political action, as well as what forms of knowledge and power are presumed distinctly feminine. The franchises explored in this book illustrate the ambivalent (post)feminist representation of women protagonists as uniquely gifted in ways both gendered and seemingly ungendered, and yet inherently bound to expressions of their femininity. At heart, There She Goes Again asks under what terms and in what contexts women protagonists are imagined, envisioned, embodied, and replicated in media. Especially now, in a period of gradually increasing representation, women protagonists demonstrate the importance of considering how we should define—and whether we need—feminine forms of knowledge and power.

AVIVA DOVE-VIEBAHN is an assistant professor of film and media studies at Arizona State University, as well as a frequent contributor to Ms. magazine and a screenwriter. She is the coeditor of Public Feminisms: From Academy to Community.

Strictly Observant
Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women Negotiating Media
RIVKA NERIYA-BEN SHAHAR

The Amish and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities have typically been associated with strict religious observance, a renunciation of worldly things, and an obedience of women to men. Women's relationship to media in these communities, however, betrays a more nuanced picture of the boundaries at play and women's roles in negotiating them.

Strictly Observant presents a compelling ethnographic study of the complex dynamic between women in both the Pennsylvanian Old Order Amish and Israeli ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities and contemporary media technologies. These women regularly establish valuable social, cultural, and religious capital through the countless decisions for use and nonuse of media that they make in their daily lives, and in ways that challenge the gender hierarchies of each community. By exhibiting a deep awareness of how media can be managed to increase their social and religious reputations, these women prompt us to reconsider our outmoded understanding of the Amish and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, the role that women play in these communities as agents of change, and our own relationship to media today.

RIVKA NERIYA-BEN SHAHAR is a senior lecturer at Sapir Academic College in Sderot, Israel, where she teaches communications, religion, and gender.
Undoing Motherhood
Collaborative Reproduction and the Deinstitutionalization of U.S. Maternity

KATHERINE M. JOHNSON

"Undoing Motherhood is fascinating and unique; there is really no other published work that empirically examines the issues, debates, and contestations about maternity from the meso-level/organizational level that shape definitions about maternity and ensuing contestations when assisted reproductive technologies are involved."
—Susan Markens, author of Surrogate Motherhood and the Politics of Motherhood

In 1978 the world’s first “test-tube baby” was born from in vitro fertilization (IVF), effectively ushering in a paradigm shift for infertility treatment that relied on partially disembodied human reproduction. Beyond IVF, the ability to extract, fertilize, and store reproductive cells outside of the human body has created new opportunities for family building, but also prompted new conflicts about rights to and control over reproductive cells. In collaborative forms of reproduction that build on IVF-technologies, such as egg and embryo donation, and gestational surrogacy, multiple women may variously contribute to conception, gestation/birth, and then legal and social responsibilities for rearing a child, creating intentionally fragmented maternities. Undoing Motherhood examines the implications of such fragmented maternities in the post-IVF reproductive era for generating maternity uncertainty—an increasing cultural ambiguity about what does and should constitute maternity.

KATHERINE M. JOHNSON is an associate professor of sociology and director of gender and sexuality studies at Tulane University.

Black and Smart
How Black High-Achieving Women Experience College

ADRIANNE MUSU DAVIS

Even academically talented students face challenges in college. For high-achieving Black women, their racial, gender, and academic identities intensify those issues. Inside the classroom, they are spotlighted and feel forced to be representatives for their identity groups. In campus life, they are isolated and face microaggressions from peers. Using intersectionality as a theoretical framework, Davis addresses the significance of the various identities of high-achieving Black women in college individually and collectively, revealing the ways institutional oppression functions at historically white institutions and in social interactions on and off campus. Based on interviews with collegiate Black women in honors communities, Black and Smart analyzes the experiences of academically talented Black undergraduate women navigating their social and academic lives at urban historically white institutions and offers strategies for creating more inclusive academic and social environments for talented undergraduates.

ADRIANNE MUSU DAVIS is the administrative dean/director of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

Rutgers University Press • Women’s Studies SS24
Mammography Wars
Analyzing Attention in Cultural and Medical Disputes
ASIA FRIEDMAN
“Friedman is a thorough researcher with a clear, engaging style. Her focus on patterns of attention as the organizing analytical framework is fresh and unusual: a fascinating read.”
—Kelly Joyce, professor of sociology, Drexel University

Mammography is a routine health screening performed forty million times each year in the United States, yet it remains one of the most deeply contested topics in medicine, with national health care organizations supporting conflicting guidelines. In Mammography Wars, sociologist Asia Friedman examines cultural and medical disagreements over mammography. At issue is whether to screen women under age fifty, which is rooted in deeper questions about early detection and the assumed linear and progressive development of breast cancer. Based on interviews with doctors and scientists, interviews with women ages forty to fifty, and newspaper coverage of mammography, Friedman uses the sociology of attention to map the cognitive structure of the “mammography wars,” offering insights into the entrenched nature of debates over mammography that often get missed when applying a medical lens. Friedman’s analysis also suggests the sociology of attention’s unique potential for analyzing cultural conflicts beyond mammography, and even beyond medicine.

ASIA FRIEDMAN is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Delaware.

Critical Issues in Health and Medicine

Suffering Sappho!
Lesbian Camp in American Popular Culture
BARBARA JANE BRICKMAN
An ever-expanding and panicked Wonder Woman crashes through a city skyline begging Steve to stop her. A twisted queen of sorority row crashes her convertible trying to escape her queer shame. A suave butch emcee introduces the sequined and feathered stars of the era’s most celebrated drag revue. For an unsettled and retrenching postwar America, these startling figures betrayed the failure of promised consensus and appeasing conformity. They could also be cruel, painful, and disciplinary jokes. It turns out that an obsession with managing gender and female sexuality after the war would hardly contain them. On the contrary, it spread their campy manifestations throughout mainstream culture.

Offering the first major consideration of lesbian camp in American popular culture, Suffering Sappho traces a larger-than-life lesbian menace across midcentury media forms to propose five prototypical queer icons—the sicko, the monster, the spinster, the Amazon, and the rebel. On the pages of comics and sensational pulp fiction and the dramas of television and drive-in movies, Barbara Jane Brickman discovers evidence not just of campy sexual deviants but of troubling female performers, whose failures could be epic but whose subversive potential could inspire.

BARBARA JANE BRICKMAN is an associate professor of media and gender studies at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She is the author of two books, New American Teenagers: The Lost Generation of Youth in 1970s Film and Grease: Gender, Nostalgia and Youth Consumption in the Blockbuster Era, and is the founder and director of the Druid City Girls Media Program.
Maid for Television
Race, Class, Gender, and a Representational Economy
L. S. KIM

*Maid for Television* examines the intersection of race, class, and gender relations as embodied in a long history of television servants from 1950 to the turn of the millennium. Although they reside at the visual peripheries, these figures are integral to the idealized American family. Author L. S. Kim redirects viewers’ gaze towards the usually overlooked interface between characters, which is drawn through race, class, and gender identities. *Maid for Television* tells the stories of servants and the families they work for, in so doing it investigates how Americans have dealt with difference through television as a medium and a mediator.

L. S. KIM is an associate professor in the Department of Film and Digital Media at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has written about race, class, gender, and genre for *The Routledge Companion to Asian American Media*, *The Sage Handbook of Television Studies*, *Flow TV*, *Journal of Film and Video*, *Anti-Feminisms in Media Culture*, and *Ms. Magazine*. She serves on the Ms. Committee of Scholars, and has served on the American Film Institute Awards jury.
Mary Climbs In
The Journeys of Bruce Springsteen’s Women Fans

LORRAINE MANGIONE AND DONNA LUFF

“This project is an important interdisciplinary contribution to what is now a bona fide discourse of Springsteen studies. It takes a uniquely empirical approach to the subject, and illuminates a once overlooked, but now increasingly important and multi-faceted conversation about female audiences for Springsteen’s music.”
—Jim Cullen, author of Martin Scorsese and the American Dream

“Mary Climbs In offers an important entry in rock music scholarship. In addition to providing a contribution to the burgeoning arena of fan studies, Mangione and Luff afford readers a window into the female experience vis-à-vis rock ‘n’ roll.”
—Kenneth Womack, author of The Beatles and the 1960s: Reception, Revolution, and Social Change

Bruce Springsteen has been cherished by his fans for decades, from his early days playing high school gymnasiums through globally successful albums and huge stadium shows to solo performances in intimate theaters. As his long and illustrious career has evolved, the legendary devotion of his fans has remained a constant. Springsteen fans have become worthy of study in their own right, with books, memoirs, and even a movie documenting their passion and perspectives. But his fans are not monolithic, and surprisingly little attention has been paid to why so many women from across the world adore The Boss.

Mary Climbs In illuminates this once overlooked but increasingly important and multi-faceted conversation about female audiences for Springsteen’s music. Drawing on unique surveys of fans themselves, the study offers insight into women’s experiences in their own voices. Authors Lorraine Mangione and Donna Luff explore the depth of women fans’ connection to Springsteen and the profound ways this connection has shaped their lives. Reflections from fans enliven each page as readers take a journey through the camaraderie and joy of concerts, the sorrow and confusion of personal loss and suffering, the love and closeness of community, and the search for meaning and for the self. Viewed through a psychological lens, women fans’ relationship with Springsteen is revealed in all its complexity as never before. Mary Climbs In is an important interdisciplinary contribution to the growing field of Springsteen studies and a must-read for any fan.

LORRAINE MANGIONE, professor of clinical psychology at Antioch University New England, focuses on women and creativity and artistry, group therapy, spirituality and religion, aging, loss and grief, Italian American culture, and #MeToo. Published works include Daughters, Dads, and the Path through Grief.

DONNA LUFF is a British-born writer and sociologist, an educator at Boston Children’s Hospital, and faculty at Harvard Medical School. She has published on gender, sexuality, and health care innovations, as well as personal essays, and articles on Springsteen and on Springsteen’s women fans.
Black Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
Critical Research and Perspectives
EDITED BY MELANIE A. MEDEIROS AND KEISHA-KHAN Y. PERRY
FOREWORD BY CHRISTEN A. SMITH

Black Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Critical Research and Perspectives employs an intersectional and interdisciplinary approach to examine Black cisgender women’s social, cultural, economic, and political experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean. It presents critical empirical research emphasizing Black women’s innovative, theoretical, and methodological approaches to activism and class-based gendered racism and Black politics. While there are a few single-authored books focused on Black women in Latin American and Caribbean, the vast majority of the scholarship on Black women in Latin America and the Caribbean has been published as theses, dissertations, articles, and book chapters. This volume situates these social and political analyses as interrelated and dialogic and contributes a transnational perspective to contemporary conversations surrounding the continued relevance of Black women as a category of social science inquiry. Many of the contributing authors are from Latin American and Caribbean countries, reflecting a commitment to representing the valuable observations and lived experiences of scholars from this region.

MELANIE A. MEDEIROS is an associate professor of anthropology at SUNY Geneseo.
KEISHA-KHAN Y. PERRY is an associate professor of Africana studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Elena, Princesa of the Periphery
Disney’s Flexible Latina Girl
DIANA LEON-BOYS

“In this fascinating and insightful study, Diana Leon-Boys demonstrates how Disney has constructed notions of Latina girlhood through its first Latina princess. Through apt exploration of Elena of Avalor on screen and at Disney theme parks, she illuminates how Latina girls’ media is positioned as both Latin American and Latinx, and always peripheral to the U.S. mainstream.”
—Mary Beltrán, author of Latino TV

“Well researched and argued, Princesa of the Periphery is a welcome contribution to Latinx/girls/media studies. Focusing on Elena of Avalor, one of Disney’s newest ‘empowered’ yet marginalized princesses, Leon-Boys helps us to understand the complexities of representing and performing Latina girlhood in U.S. popular culture while also drawing attention to the potential consequences of such depictions for Latina girls, who are hungry for public recognition and deserving of authentic role models.”
—Mary Celeste Kearney, author of Girls Make Media

“This is a vital and sophisticated study of the connection between Latina girlhood and the dream machine that is Disney. Leon-Boys attends to the voices of Latina girls, and complements this with powerful insights on how Latina girls are seen within media production cultures. The result is a powerful and compelling argument about the marketization of dreams and the reconstitution of Latina marginalization.”
—Hector Amaya, author of Citizenship Excess: Latinos/as, Media, and the Nation

DIANA LEON-BOYS is an assistant professor in the department of communication at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Latinidad: Transnational Cultures in the United States
Hero Me Not
The Containment of the Most Powerful Black, Female Superhero

CHESYA BURKE

“Hits hard at the tough questions. Deeply thought-provoking!”
—N. K. Jemisin, author of *The Inheritance Trilogy*

“For the creators behind modern myths this is a necessary interrogation of what matters on the page and in the real world. For readers, this is a deep dive into why these stories appeal to us and how they challenge dominant narratives. Burke’s *Hero Me Not* reminds us all that diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality are more than buzz words or jargon. The stories we tell, the stories we consume matter on every level.”
—Mikki Kendall, author of *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot*

First introduced in the pages of *X-Men*, Storm is probably the most recognized Black female superhero. She is also one of the most powerful characters in the Marvel Universe, with abilities that allow her to control the weather itself. Yet that power is almost always deployed in the service of white characters, and Storm is rarely treated as an authority figure.

*Hero Me Not* offers an in-depth look at this fascinating yet often frustrating character through all her manifestations in comics, animation, and films. Chesya Burke examines the coding of Storm as racially “exotic,” an African woman who nonetheless has bright white hair and blue eyes and was portrayed onscreen by biracial actresses Halle Berry and Alexandra Shipp. She shows how Storm, created by white writers and artists, was an amalgam of various Black stereotypes, from the Mammy and the Jezebel to the Magical Negro, resulting in a new stereotype she terms the Negro Spiritual Woman.

With chapters focusing on the history, transmedia representation, and racial politics of Storm, Burke offers a very personal account of what it means to be a Black female comics fan searching popular culture for positive images of powerful women who look like you.

CHESYA BURKE is an assistant professor of English and U.S. literatures and director of Africana studies at Stetson University. Her story collection *Let’s Play White*, is being taught in universities around the world.
Women and New Hollywood

Gender, Creative Labor, and 1970s American Cinema

EDITED BY AARON HUNTER AND MARTHA SHEARER

"Women and New Hollywood provides the much-needed and long-awaited intervention on 1970s American movie industry mythologies, paying tribute to those whose talents, contributions, and perseverance were until now un(der)appreciated and, in so doing, modeling feminist media historiography at its finest."

—Maria San Filippo, author of Provocauteurs and Provocations: Screening Sex in 21st Century Media

“A major disruption of conventional narratives about New Hollywood in the 1970s, this collection demonstrates how essential women were to all levels of filmmaking and film culture during a period of fundamental transformation and transition.”

—Shelley Stamp, author of Lois Weber in Early Hollywood and Movie-Struck Girls

“This ambitious and impressive edited collection, with contributions from some of the field’s most exciting scholars, is a much-needed feminist intervention into scholarship around the so-called 1970s Hollywood Renaissance. The essays place the women creators and collaborators—and vitally, their labor—back to the center of discussion where they belong. A stimulating and provocative read.”

—Julie Turnock, author of The Empire of Effects: Industrial Light and Magic and the Rendering of Realism

The 1970s has often been hailed as a great moment for American film, as a generation of “New Hollywood” directors like Scorsese, Coppola, and Altman offered idiosyncratic visions of what movies could be. Yet the auteurist discourse hailing these directors as the sole authors of their films has obscured the important creative roles women played in the 1970s American film industry.

Women and New Hollywood revises our understanding of this important era in American film by examining the contributions that women made not only as directors, but also as screenwriters, editors, actors, producers, and critics. Including essays on film history, film texts, and the decade’s film theory and criticism, this collection showcases the rich and varied cinematic products of women’s creative labor, as well as the considerable barriers they faced. It considers both women working within and beyond the Hollywood film industry, reconceptualizing New Hollywood by bringing it into dialogue with other American cinemas of the 1970s. By valuing the many forms of creative labor involved in film production, this collection offers exciting alternatives to the auteurist model and new ways of appreciating the themes and aesthetics of 1970s American film.


MARTHA SHEARER is an assistant professor and Ad Astra Fellow in Film Studies at University College Dublin.
“Drawing on sustained and in-depth engagement with Polli Somaj, a program associated with the NGO BRAC, Qayum argues among other things that NGOs can play a critical role in development: in linking marginalized citizens with state services and societal resources, and in shifting cultural practices through offering alternative or competing ‘logics of appropriateness.’ Written in carefully crafted, evocative prose, Village Ties is a welcome addition to the field.”

—Dina M. Siddiqi, Clinical Associate Professor, New York University

“Village Ties does something new and valuable by telling a more complicated story about NGOs and rural Bangladeshi women. Nayma Qayum shows how these activists tackle the informal institutions that keep rural women poor and powerless, and in so doing, help build the necessary foundations for women’s power. Scholars of civil society and NGOs, of Bangladesh’s development, and of women’s empowerment will find this fascinating, full of stories and substantive arguments about the deep roots of social change.”

—Naomi Hossain, co-editor of The Politics of Education in Developing Countries: From Schooling to Learning

Across the global South, poor women’s lives are embedded in their social relationships and governed not just by formal institutions—rules that exist on paper—but by informal norms and practices. Village Ties takes the reader to Bangladesh, a country that has risen from the ashes of war, natural disaster, and decades of resource drain to become a development miracle. The book argues that grassroots women’s mobilization programs can empower women to challenge informal institutions when such programs are anti-oppression, deliberative, and embedded in their communities. Qayum dives into the work of Polli Shomaj (PS), a program of the development organization BRAC to show how the women of PS negotiate with state and society to alter the rules of the game, changing how poor people access resources including safety nets, the law, and governing spaces. These women create a complex and rapidly transforming world where multiple overlapping institutions exist—formal and informal, old and new, desirable and undesirable. In actively challenging power structures around them, these women defy stereotypes of poor Muslim women as backward, subservient, oppressed, and in need of saving.

NAYMA QAYUM is an associate professor of Asian studies and global and international studies at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.
Rape by the Numbers
Producing and Contesting Scientific Knowledge about Sexual Violence

ETHAN CZUY LEVINE

“This book will truly be a welcome wake up call for those social scientists dedicated to studying rape and sexual assault. It effectively reveals the many blind spots of much of the work that has been done over the past several decades, and is refreshingly full of valid and reasonable recommendations and potential solutions to help move this field of study forward most inclusively and productively.”
—Deborah White, Professor, Trent University

“Rape by the Numbers is an important, well-researched, theoretically sophisticated, and engagingly presented book. It brings concepts from the field of Science and Technology Studies together with quantitative and qualitative data to generate an important analysis and set of recommendations about the social science of sexual violence.”
—Alexandra Rutherford, author of The Science And Politics Of Gender: Feminist Psychology And Its Publics In Late-20th Century America

Science plays a substantial, though under-acknowledged, role in shaping popular understandings of rape. Statistical figures like “1 in 4 women have experienced completed or attempted rape” are central for raising awareness. Yet such scientific facts often become points of controversy, particularly as conservative scholars and public figures attempt to discredit feminist activists. Rape by the Numbers explores scientists’ approaches to studying rape over more than forty years in the United States and Canada. In addition to investigating how scientists come to know the scope, causes, and consequences of rape, this book delves into the politics of rape research. Scholars who study rape often face a range of social pressures and resource constraints, including some that are unique to feminized and politicized fields of inquiry. Collectively, these matters have far-reaching consequences. Scientific projects may determine who counts as a potential victim/survivor or aggressor in a range of contexts, shaping research agendas as well as state policy, anti-violence programming and services, and public perceptions. Social processes within the study of rape determine which knowledges count as credible science, and thus who may count as an expert in academic and public contexts.

ETHAN CZUY LEVINE is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey. Outside of academia, Levine has 15 years’ experience in anti-violence advocacy, primarily working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Critical Issues in Crime and Society
Getting It, Having It, Keeping It Up
Straight Men’s Sexuality in Public and Private

BETH MONTEMURRO

“Grounded in extraordinarily rich interview data, this book offers a fascinating and sociologically compelling account of heterosexual men’s sexuality over the life course in the United States. Montemurro’s analysis speaks to numerous sociological phenomena, and is a pleasure to read.”
—Laura Carpenter, author of Sex for Life: From Virginity to Viagra, How Sexuality Changes Throughout Our Lives

“A timely book documenting men’s stories about their own sexual lives to underscore the importance of helping men to develop healthy relationships with women, with each other and with themselves.”
—C.J. Pascoe, associate professor at University of Oregon and co-editor of Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World

When straight men talk to each other about their sex lives, they often boast about sexual exploits and brag about the hot women they have slept with. Yet this competitive bluster covers up deep-seated anxieties about measuring up to impossibly virile cultural ideals of masculinity. So how do straight men really feel about sex, women, and manhood—and how do those feelings clash with their public performance of manliness?

This landmark sociological study emerges from in-depth interviews with nearly one hundred straight American men aged 20 to 68 from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. Getting It, Having It, Keeping It Up examines how these men use sex with women as a way of affirming their manhood—and how they view themselves as failures when they are unable to “score.” It also explores the effects of aging and erectile dysfunction on the men’s self-image. However, the life stories collected here are not just about performance anxiety, as this research reveals ways that some straight men have resisted masculine cultural scripts to form mutually nurturing relationships with women.

Addressing everything from pornography to marriage, this book shares straight men’s most intimate experiences of failure, triumph, heartbreak, and love.

BETH MONTEMURRO is a distinguished professor of sociology at Penn State University, Abington. She is the author of Deserving Desire: Women’s Stories of Sexual Evolution and Something Old, Something Bold: Bridal Showers and Bachelorette Parties (both Rutgers University Press).
Everyday Violence
The Public Harassment of Women and LGBTQ People

SIMONE KOLYSH

“In this dazzling work of engaged scholarship, Simone Kolysh responds to a terribly pressing need: to understand anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ street harassment as related forms of public violence. Kolysh reveals these intersecting phenomena to be as unwieldy as they are ubiquitous, freighted with sexism, racism, transphobia, and class power. Yet change is possible, and Kolysh’s ‘everyday’ represents both the problem and the promise of the public realm.”
—Matt Brim, author of Poor Queer Studies: Confronting Elitism in the University

“Everyday Violence is a grounded, unapologetically feminist intersectional analysis of catcalling and LGBTQ-directed aggression on the New York City streets. Catcalling and LGBTQ-directed aggression are manifestations of overlapping systems of oppression and evidence of the widespread and normalized violence women and LGBTQ people face. Everyday Violence is a must-read for academics and activists fatigued by carceral feminism—who seek bold and innovative solutions to gendered and sexual violence based on transformative justice and community accountability.”
—Angela Jones, author of Camming: Money, Power, and Pleasure in the Sex Work Industry

_everyday violence_ is based on ten years of scholarly rage against catcalling and aggression directed at women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people of New York City. Simone Kolysh recasts public harassment as everyday violence and demands an immediate end to this pervasive social problem. Analyzing interviews with initiators and recipients of everyday violence through an intersectional lens, Kolysh argues that gender and sexuality, shaped by race, class, and space, are violent processes that are reproduced through these interactions in the public sphere. They examine short and long-term impacts and make inroads in urban sociology, queer and trans geographies, and feminist thought. Kolysh also draws a connection between public harassment, gentrification, and police brutality resisting criminalizing narratives in favor of restorative justice. Through this work, they hope for a future where women and LGBTQ people can live on their own terms, free from violence.

SIMONE KOLYSH is an assistant professor of sociology at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.
Junctures in Women’s Leadership: Health Care and Public Health
EDITED BY MARY E. O’DOWD AND RUTH CHARBONNEAU

“Kudos to O’Dowd and Charbonneau for identifying outstanding women leaders to compile these case studies that both humble and inspire the reader. These lessons remind us it takes one person, using both the adversity of their lives and the talents they have acquired, to improve the health of both communities and the world. Never has there been a more important time in healthcare history to extend ourselves to apply both intellect and persistence to leave our mark.”
—Amy B. Mansue, President and CEO, Inspira Health

“This is a motivating collection of stories about exceptional leaders. Women of diverse backgrounds, and bound by specific attributes: passion about the well-being of the people they serve and commitment to improving the social and structural forces that shape their health. An important reminder that one’s legacy can be defined by one major accomplishment, or by many smaller achievements over time.”
—Jewell Mullen, Associate Dean for Health Equity, Dell Medical School

Junctures in Women’s Leadership: Health Care and Public Health offers an eclectic compilation of case studies telling the stories of women leaders in public health and health care, from Katsi Cook, Mohawk midwife, to Virginia Apgar, Katharine Dexter McCormick and Florence Schorske Wald, to Marilyn Tavenner, Suerie Moon, and more. The impact of their work is extraordinarily relevant to the current public discourse including subjects such as the global COVID-19 pandemic, disparities in health outcomes, prevention of disease and the impact of the Affordable Care Act. The leadership lessons gleaned from these chapters can be applied to a broad array of disciplines within government, private business, media, philanthropy, pharmaceutical, environmental and health sectors. Each chapter is authored by a well versed and accomplished woman, demonstrating the book’s theme that there are many paths within health care and public health. The case study format of each chapter starts with an introductory section that gives a biographical and historical background, setting the stage for a juncture, or decision point, and the resolution.

MARY E. O’DOWD works for Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and is on the Advisory Board for the Institute for Women’s Leadership at Rutgers University. She served as the NJ Department of Health Commissioner, and has held positions at NYU Medical Center, NJHA and the NJ General Assembly.

RUTH CHARBONNEAU works at Thomas Jefferson University’s Lambert Center for the Study of Medicinal Cannabis and Hemp. She served on the leadership team for several Commissioners of the NJ Department of Health and was a NJ Governor’s Fellow.
Badass Feminist Politics
Exploring Radical Edges of Feminist Theory, Communication, and Activism
EDITED BY SARAH JANE BLITHE AND JANELL C. BAUER

“If ever there was a time for a badass feminist communication declaration, that time is now! Blithe and Bauer have carefully crafted a collection where perspectives, passions, voices, and views not only fill a gap in research, but carve a new path. The brilliance of the contributors is reflected in an affirmation of social identities across contexts representing “what feminism looks like” for the next generation of badass feminist scholars aiming to right wrongs, ignite change, and sustain transformative practices in everyday lived experiences.”
—Karla D. Scott, author of The Language of Strong Black Womanhood

“Sarah Jane Blithe and Janell C. Bauer have curated a must read edited collection for anyone interested in feminisms, communication, and identity justice. This is an important and timely resource for feminist scholar-teachers that engages critical questions about gender, race, and intersectionality in communication research and pedagogy by centering black feminist voices throughout.”
—Stephanie Norander, Executive Director of Communication Across the Curriculum, UNC Charlotte

Badass Feminist Politics includes a diverse range of engaging feminist political projects to not only analyze the work being done on the ground but provide an overview for action that can be taken on by those seeking to engage in feminist activism in their own communities. Contributors included here are working for equality and equity and resisting violent, racist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, and sexist language and action during this tension-filled political moment. Collectively, the book explores what it means to live and communicate feminist politics in everyday choices and actions, and how we can facilitate learning by analyzing these examples. This book is a testament to resilience, resistance, communication, and forward thinking about what these themes all mean for new feminist agendas. Learning how to resist oppressive structures through words and actions is particularly important for students. Badass Feminist Politics features scholars from non-dominant groups taking up issues of marginalization and oppression, which can help people accomplish their social justice goals of inclusivity on the ground and in the classroom.

SARAH JANE BLITHE is an associate professor of communication studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is the author of Stories of Sex and Stigma: Work and Life in Nevada’s Legal Brothels and Gender Equality and Work-Life Balance: Glass Handcuffs and Working Men in the U.S.

JANELL C. BAUER is an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations at California State University, Chico. Her work focuses on critical studies of organizational communication, work-life policy, social media and activism, feminist theory and pedagogy.
No Real Choice
How Culture and Politics Matter for Reproductive Autonomy

KATRINA KIMPORT

“No Real Choice offers important insights into the reproductive experiences of women, especially poor women of color. The result is a reframing of the choice for women, from one of deciding between abortion and the continuation of pregnancy to one of deciding whether or not to have an abortion.”
—Nazli Kibria, author of Becoming Asian American

“No Real Choice marks the definitive end of arguing for a “pro-choice” America by proving how policies, assumptions, and histories of medical injustice often make abortion utterly unchooseable. Collecting voices from those who considered abortion but went to term anyway, Katrina Kimport charts the logistical obstacles to terminating unwanted pregnancies and illustrates the need for promoting the right to parent for low income individuals and people of color. The lived reality of racism shapes these ethnographic stories of struggle over reproductive possibilities and impossibilities to affirm abortion not as an option but as a necessary element of a just society.”
—Carol Mason, author of Killing for Life: The Apocalyptic Narrative of Pro-life Politics

“For those skeptical that there’s anything new to say about abortion, Kimport’s book is a must-read. Her careful analysis shows—startlingly—that many women give birth because abortion is ‘unchoosable.’”
—Lisa Harris, MD, University of Michigan

Based on candid, in-depth interviews with women who considered but did not obtain an abortion, No Real Choice punctures the myth that American women have full autonomy over their reproductive choices. Focusing on the experiences of a predominantly Black and low-income group of women, sociologist Katrina Kimport finds that structural, cultural, and experiential factors can make choosing abortion impossible—especially for those who experience racism and class discrimination. From these conversations, we see the obstacles to “choice” these women face, such as bans on public insurance coverage of abortion and rampant antiabortion claims that abortion is harmful. Kimport’s interviews reveal that even as activists fight to preserve Roe v. Wade, class and racial disparities have already curtailed many women’s freedom of choice.

No Real Choice analyzes both the structural obstacles to abortion and the cultural ideologies that try to persuade women not to choose abortion. Told with care and sensitivity, No Real Choice gives voice to women whose experiences are often overlooked in debates on abortion, illustrating how real reproductive choice is denied, for whom, and at what cost.

KATRINA KIMPORT is an associate professor in the Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) program in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Her books include Queering Marriage: Challenging Family Formation in the United States (Rutgers University Press).

Families in Focus
King of Hearts
Drag Kings in the American South
BAKER A. ROGERS

“If you live on the fringe of society and challenge its most predominant norm, the majority isn’t going to tell your story, or frankly, even know you exist. It’s up to us to tell our own stories and Roger’s brilliant book does just that. They share their story as well as the unique experience of Southeastern drag kings. They’re taking up space, showcasing a specific demographic, and leading the way for others. The Kings have come.”
—Murray Hill, New York City drag king and comedian

“King of Hearts is a readable and accessible adventure in the world of drag kinging, gender bending, and transmasculine life in the South. The author locates the spectacular performances of these drag kings within the place where they live and the rich history of drag kinging in the American South. If you are interested in being a drag king, understanding shows, or expanding your ideas about gender and sexuality, this is the book for you.”
—Amy L. Stone, author of Cornyation: San Antonio’s Outrageous Fiesta Tradition

While drag subcultures have gained mainstream media attention in recent years, the main focus has been on female impersonators. Equally lively, however, is the community of drag kings: cis women, trans men, and non-binary people who perform exaggerated masculine personas onstage under such names as Adonis Black, Papi Chulo, and Oliver Clothesoff.

King of Hearts shows how drag king performers are thriving in an unlikely location: Southern Bible Belt states like Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina. Based on observations and interviews with sixty Southern drag kings, this study reveals how they are challenging the region’s gender norms while creating a unique community with its own distinctive Southern flair. Reflecting the region’s racial diversity, it profiles not only white drag kings, but also those who are African American, multiracial, and Hispanic.

Queer scholar Baker A. Rogers—who has also performed as drag king Macon Love—takes you on an insider’s tour of Southern drag king culture, exploring its history, the communal bonds that unite it, and the controversies that have divided it. King of Hearts offers a groundbreaking look at a subculture that presents a subversion of gender norms while also providing a vital lifeline for non-gender-conforming Southerners.

BAKER A. ROGERS is an associate professor of sociology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. Baker is the author of Conditionally Accepted: Christians’ Perspectives on Sexuality and Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights (Rutgers University Press) and Trans Men in the South: Becoming Men.
Love, Sex, Gender, and Superheroes

JEFFREY A. BROWN

“It’s a bird, plane... No, it’s actually a phallic-bulged Man of Steel, ultrasonic orgasming Black Canary, jester in hot-pants Harley, vanilla romancing Spidey, a gay lip-locking Iceman, queer Batcave encounters, and out-and-proud Young Avengers. With his usual superhero infrared analytic prowess, Jeffrey Allan Brown makes visible to the human eye a superhero universe that at once feeds straight fanboy wish fulfillment fantasies of square-jawed virility and radically troubles mainstreamed norms of love, sex, sexuality, and gender!”

—Frederick Luis Aldama, author of Eisner Award-winning Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics

“From porn parodies to Bat man-caves, from hidden Hulk phalluses to robots in revealing negligees, Jeffrey A. Brown demonstrates convincingly that superhero narratives are filled not just with superfeats, but with supergender.”

—Noah Berlatsky, author of Wonder Woman: Bondage and Feminism in the Marston/Peter Comics

“We know that superhero comics are concerned with masculinity, but Jeffrey Brown makes a powerful case for understanding superhero comics as also foundationally about love and sex. Perhaps this accessible text with its impressive breadth will finally put to bed the idea that these works are only selling adolescent fantasies about manhood. Creators and fans consistently use superhero comics to explore very adult ideas about intimacy. Adding one more important volume to his prolific body of work, Brown yet again demonstrates that he is a skilled reader of gender in popular culture.”

—Rebecca Wanzo, author of The Content of Our Caricature: African American Comic Art and Political Belonging

Love, Sex, Gender, and Superheroes examines a full range of superhero media, from comics to films to television to merchandising. With a keen eye for the genre’s complex and internally contradictory mythology, comics scholar Jeffrey A. Brown considers its mixed messages. Superhero comics may reinforce sex roles with their litany of phallic musclemen and slinky femme fatales, but they also blur gender binaries with their emphasis on transformation and body swaps. Similarly, while most heroes have heterosexual love interests, the genre prioritizes homosocial bonding, and it both celebrates and condemns gendered and sexualized violence.

JEFFREY A. BROWN is a professor in the Department of Popular Culture and the School of Critical and Cultural Studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. His many books include The Modern Superhero in Film and Television and Panthers, Hulks and Ironhearts: Marvel, Diversity, and the 21st Century Superhero (Rutgers University Press).
One of the age-old questions of philosophy is what does it mean to live a good life? Such concerns are important to us all, yet the voices and thoughts of women have often been missing from the conversation.

In this extraordinary book, award-winning writer, Julienne van Loon addresses the work of leading international thinkers, interrogating and enlivening their ideas on everyday issues. She discusses friendship with pre-eminent philosopher Rosi Braidotti, wonder with cultural historian Maria Warner, play with celebrated novelist Siri Hustvedt, love with cultural critic Laura Kipnis, work with socialist feminist Nancy Holmstrom, and fear in relation to the work of Helen Caldicott, Rosie Batty and Julia Kristeva.

Her journey is intellectual and deeply personal, political and intimate at once. It introduces readers to some extraordinary women whose own deeply thoughtful work has much to offer all of us. They may transform our own views of what it means to live a good life.

JULIENNE VAN LOON is the author of three critically acclaimed novels: Road Story, Beneath the Bloodwood Tree and Harmless. She lives in Melbourne, where she holds a Vice Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellowship with the writing and publishing program at RMIT University. Julienne’s honors include the Australian/Vogel’s Award and an appointment as Honorary Fellow in Writing with the University of Iowa. The Thinking Woman is her first work of non-fiction.
Drag Queens and Beauty Queens
Contesting Femininity in the World’s Playground

LAURIE GREENE

The Miss America pageant has been held in Atlantic City for the past hundred years, helping to promote the city as a tourist destination. But just a few streets away, the city hosts a smaller event that, in its own way, is equally vital to the local community: the Miss’d America drag pageant.

*Drag Queens and Beauty Queens* presents a vivid ethnography of the Miss’d America pageant and the gay neighborhood from which it emerged in the early 1990s as a moment of campy celebration in the midst of the AIDS crisis. It examines how the pageant strengthened community bonds and activism, as well as how it has changed now that *Rupaul’s Drag Race* has brought many of its practices into the cultural mainstream. Comparing the Miss’d America pageant with its glitzy cisgender big sister, anthropologist Laurie Greene discovers how the two pageants have influenced each other in unexpected ways.

*Drag Queens and Beauty Queens* deepens our understanding of how femininity is performed at pageants, exploring the various ways that both the Miss’d America and Miss America pageants have negotiated between embracing and critiquing traditional gender roles. Ultimately, it celebrates the rich tradition of drag performance and the community it engenders.

LAURIE GREENE is an associate professor of anthropology at Stockton University in New Jersey, where she has taught since 1986. She is the founder and chair of the LGBTQ Youth Safe Space Initiative at Stockton University and an advocate for the local LGBTQ community.

Table of Contents
Preface and Acknowledgements
Introduction: Doing AC
Chapter 1: Pageants and Pageantry
Chapter 2: Atlantic City, Drag Culture, and a Community of Practice
Chapter 3: New York Avenue: Where the Party Began
Chapter 4: Camp and The Queering of Miss America
Chapter 5: Show Us your Shoes, Not your Midriffs
Conclusion: Drag Queens and Beauty Queens
Appendix I: Winners of the Miss’d America Pageant
Appendix II: Drag Queens Interviewed in Fieldnotes With Dates
Appendix III: Original Miss’d America Theme Song
Bibliography
Index

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LGBTQ Studies • Popular Culture
Women’s Studies
Women Make Horror
Filmmaking, Feminism, Genre

EDITED BY ALISON PEIRSE

“It’s about time a book like this came to light! Why wouldn’t women make horror? We’ve been dealing with it forever. As artists we often bring up the very things we are most afraid of as a way of facing them, and there’s a lot to fear in this world where men still dominate. May books like this—eloquently written—help to bring about a shift toward equality and embracing female artistic perspectives, whatever they may be.”

—Katt Shea, feature film writer/director

“This thrilling collection of essays confirms what women have known since Mary Shelley: patriarchy is scary, and the horror genre can gruesomely, gloriously play out its nightmares. Women Make Horror reveals the rich history of women’s engagement with horror films, crossing national and scholarly boundaries to explore horror’s feminist themes and questions. It will jumpstart a new playlist of women’s horror cinema and will provoke us to rethink the films we’ve already seen.”

—Linda Mizejewski, distinguished professor of women’s, gender and sexuality studies at Ohio State University

Women Make Horror is the first book-length study of women filmmakers in horror film, the first all-women edited book on horror film, and the first book to call out the male bias in written histories of horror and then to illuminate precisely how, and where, these histories are lacking. It re-evaluates existing literature on the history of horror film, on women practitioners in the film industry, and approaches to undertaking film industries research. It establishes new approaches for studying women practitioners and illuminates their unexamined contribution to the formation and evolution of the horror genre. The book focuses on women directors and screenwriters but also acknowledges the importance of women producers, editors, and cinematographers. It explores narrative and experimental cinema, short, anthology, and feature-filmmaking, and offers case studies of North American, Latin American, European, East Asian, and Australian filmmakers, films and festivals.

Women Make Horror is designed to not only engage and inspire dialogue between the academy, filmmakers, industry gatekeepers, festival programmers, and horror film fans. With this book we can transform how we think about women filmmakers and genre.

ALISON PEIRSE is an associate professor in film and media at the University of Leeds, UK. She is author of After Dracula: The 1930s Horror Film and co-editor of Korean Horror Cinema.
Hot Pants and Spandex Suits
Gender Representation in American Superhero Comic Books

ESTHER DE DAUW

“In Hot Pants and Spandex Suits: Gender and Race in American Superhero Comics, Esther DeDauw has addressed the complexities of identity politics reflected in superhero comics from their earliest appearance eighty years ago. The superhero, a metaphor for the concerns of our culture, presents an apt topic for our understanding of the intersections of gender, race and national identity. The eighty year span of the book offers us a mirror to our changing perceptions of identity politics and it is of interest to anyone interested in cultural, historical and media studies.”
—Joan Ormrod, author of Wonder Woman, the Female Body and Popular Culture

“Dr. Esther de Dauw asks us to reconsider the generic construct of the superhero and to ask not only who they serve, but how. More importantly, she shows how their high-minded words often obscure less lofty silences and thus also asks us who they be might harming.”
—Martin Lund, Malmö University, author of Re-Constructing the Man of Steel

The superheroes from DC and Marvel comics are some of the most iconic characters in popular culture today. But how do these figures idealize certain gender roles, body types, sexualities, and racial identities at the expense of others?

Hot Pants and Spandex Suits offers a far-reaching look at how masculinity and femininity have been represented in American superhero comics, from the Golden and Silver Ages to the Modern Age. Scholar Esther De Dauw contrasts the bulletproof and musclebound phallic bodies of classic male heroes like Superman, Captain America, and Iron Man with the figures of female counterparts like Wonder Woman and Supergirl, who are drawn as superhumanly flexible and plastic. It also examines the genre’s ambivalent treatment of LGBTQ representation, from the presentation of gay male heroes Wiccan and Hulkling as a model minority couple to the troubling association of Batwoman’s lesbianism with monstrosity. Finally, it explores the intersection between gender and race through case studies of heroes like Luke Cage, Storm, and Ms. Marvel.

Hot Pants and Spandex Suits is a fascinating and thought-provoking consideration of what superhero comics teach us about identity, embodiment, and sexuality.

ESTHER DE DAUW is a comics scholar who works on superheroes, gender and race. She has published in The Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics, contributed a chapter to the edited volume Unstable Masks: Whiteness and American Superhero Comics, and was the primary editor for the collection Toxic Masculinity: Mapping the Monstrous in our Heroes.
Panthers, Hulks and Ironhearts
Marvel, Diversity, and the 21st Century Superhero

JEFFREY A. BROWN

“Jeffrey A. Brown does it again! With his usual compelling style of writing, this time we are treated to a very timely analysis of Marvel’s contemporary multicultural superheroes and their complex entanglements. The significance of this text is its sophisticated way of unpacking the pop cultural panoply of ideology, history, and identity in which the superhero aesthetic is inextricably confined.”

—Ronald L. Jackson II, co-author of the Comic-Con award winning book, Black Comics

Marvel is one of the hottest media companies in the world right now, and its beloved superheroes are all over film, television and comic books. Yet rather than simply cashing in on the popularity of iconic white male characters like Peter Parker, Tony Stark and Steve Rogers, Marvel has consciously diversified its lineup of superheroes, courting controversy in the process.

Panthers, Hulks and Ironhearts offers the first comprehensive study of how Marvel has reimagined what a superhero might look like in the twenty-first century. It examines how they have revitalized older characters like Black Panther and Luke Cage, while creating new ones like Latina superhero Miss America. Furthermore, it considers the mixed fan responses to Marvel’s recasting of certain “legacy heroes,” including a Pakistani-American Ms. Marvel, a Korean-American Hulk, and a whole rainbow of multiverse Spidermen.

If the superhero comic is a quintessentially American creation, then how might the increasing diversification of Marvel’s superhero lineup reveal a fundamental shift in our understanding of American identity? This timely study answers those questions and considers what Marvel’s comics, TV series, and films might teach us about stereotyping, Orientalism, repatriation, whitewashing, and identification.

JEFFREY A. BROWN is a professor in the Department of Popular Culture and the School of Critical and Cultural Studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. His many books include Black Superheroes: Milestone Comics and Their Fans and Batman and the Multiplicity of Identity: The Contemporary Comic Book Superhero as Cultural Nexus.
The Femme Fatale
JULIE GROSSMAN

“A fascinating exploration of Hollywood’s most notorious female that goes beyond film noir. With a focus on the performance of gender as subversive and empowered, Grossman illuminates over a century of femme fatales from silent cinema’s ‘Vamp’ Theda Bara to television’s Killing Eve.”
—Philippa Gates, author of Detecting Women: Gender and the Hollywood Detective Film

“In this lively and engaging book, Julie Grossman elegantly traces the long tradition of the femme fatale figure in film, television and popular culture. She deftly analyses a diverse range of characters, from Theda Bara’s vamp in early Hollywood, the hard-boiled dames of classic film noir, to the complex and vibrant Villanelle in contemporary television’s Killing Eve. Grossman persuasively illustrates the centrality of role performance to these femme fatale figures, and establishes performance as a key mode by which they resist inequalities in social structures. This book provides both a history of how women have been represented, and a compelling case for the relevance of the femme fatale to contemporary debates on gender politics.”
—Helen Hanson, author of Hollywood Heroines: Women in Film Noir and the Female Gothic Film

Ostensibly the villain, but also a model of female power, poise, and intelligence, the femme fatale embodies Hollywood’s contradictory attitudes toward ambitious women. But how has the figure of the femme fatale evolved over time, and to what extent have these changes reflected shifting cultural attitudes toward female independence and sexuality?

This book offers readers a concise look at over a century of femmes fatales on both the silver screen and the TV screen. Starting with ethnically exoticized silent film vamps like Theda Bara and Pola Negri, it examines classic film noir femmes fatales like Barbara Stanwyck in Double Indemnity, as well as postmodern revisions of the archetype in films like Basic Instinct and Memento. Finally, it explores how contemporary film and television creators like Fleabag and Killing Eve’s Phoebe Waller-Bridge have appropriated the femme fatale in sympathetic and surprising ways.

Analyzing not only the films themselves, but also studio press kits and reviews, The Femme Fatale considers how discourses about the pleasures and dangers of female performance are projected onto the figure of the femme fatale.

JULIE GROSSMAN is a professor of English and communication and film studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York. Her books about film, television, literature, and gender include Ida Lupino, Director: Her Art and Resilience in Times of Transition (with Therese Grisham), Rethinking the Femme Fatale in Film Noir: Ready for Her Close-Up, Adaptation and ElasTEXTity: Literature, Film, and Their Hideous Progeny, and Twin Peaks (with Will Scheibel).

Quick Takes: Movies and Popular Culture
“Each of the essays in this volume offers compelling examples of the transformative power of women’s leadership in higher education at all types of institutions. Beyond detailing familiar and persistent barriers that have slowed women’s progress at the highest levels in the academy, the authors showcase models for reforming institutional and organizational cultures in ways that promote structural change and value women’s authentic leadership styles.”

—Lynn Pasquerella, President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities

“With these profiles of twelve extraordinary women, we gain rich, new insights into the myriad ways they both navigated—and transformed—higher education. Profoundly idealistic—and profoundly pragmatic—they are the role models we need at a time when women still have yet to win their fair share of top leadership roles. Read this book for its powerful lessons—and equally powerful inspiration.”

—Paula A. Johnson, President of Wellesley College

Junctures in Women’s Leadership: Higher Education illuminates the careers of twelve women leaders whose experiences reveal the complexities of contemporary academic leadership through the intersection of gender, race, and institutional culture. The chapters combine interviews and research to create distinct case studies that identify the obstacles that challenged each woman’s leadership, and the strategies deployed to bring about resolution. The research presented in this volume reveals not only theoretical factors of academic leadership, but also real time dynamics that give the reader deeper insights into the multiple stakeholders and situations that require nimble, relationship-based leadership, in addition to intellectual competency. With chapters written by many of today’s leading women in higher education, this book brings into sharp focus the unique attributes of women leaders in the academy and adds a new dimension of analysis to the field of women’s leadership studies. Women leaders interviewed in this volume include Bernice Sandler, Juliet Villarreal García, and Johnnetta Betsch Cole.

CARMEN TWILLIE AMBAR is the president of Oberlin College, Ohio.

CAROL T. CHRIST is chancellor at University of California, Berkeley.

MICHELE H. OZUMBA is the former president of Women’s College Coalition, a nonprofit membership organization of women’s colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

Junctures: Case Studies in Women’s Leadership
Bio-Imperialism
Disease, Terror, and the Construction of National Fragility
Gwen Shuni D’Arcangelis

“D’Arcangelis provides a rich, timely, must-read account of the United States’ bioterror imaginary and its role in the construction of national fragility. Bio-Imperialism accounts for tales of terrorism, technoscience, caregiving, and preparedness that are entangled in a nationalism that conflates public health and national security. In so doing, it provides impressive insight into the racialized and gendered tropes dynamics underlying the United States’ re-presentation and repurposing of science and health, and the dangers therein.”
—Laura Sjoberg, co-author of International Relations’ Last Synthesis?

“In this astute and timely study, D’Arcangelis tracks the rise of a racialized and gendered ‘bioterror imaginary’ in the U.S. through science, politics, journalism, social media, and popular culture that facilitated the conversion of warnings of bioterror into a strategy for U.S. imperialism. Bio-Imperialism offers an urgent analysis of how the U.S. produces the threats to the health of a population it ostensibly seeks to address.”
—Priscilla Wald, author of Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative

Bio-Imperialism focuses on an understudied dimension of the war on terror—the fight against bioterrorism. This component of the war enlisted the biosciences and public health fields to build up the U.S. biodefense industry and U.S. global disease control. The book argues that U.S. imperial ambitions drove these shifts, aided by gendered and raced discourses on terrorism, disease, and science. It demonstrates that U.S. government and mass media amplified problematic tropes of Arabs, Muslims, and other racially marginalized communities as terrorists and disease carriers, and further, that this helped rationalize U.S. expansion of research into dangerous germs in the name of biodefense. The book also demonstrates that government and media circulated metaphors of white feminine fragility to stoke a sense of national fragility to bioterrorism and other germ threats—this bolstered U.S. rationale for increased interference in the disease control decisions of global south nations. Bio-Imperialism is a sobering look at how the war on terror impacted the world in ways that we are only just starting to grapple with.

Gwen Shuni D’Arcangelis is an associate professor of gender studies at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.
The campaign for women’s suffrage—considered the largest reform movement in American history—lasted more than seven decades. The struggle was not for the fainthearted. For years, determined women organized, lobbied, paraded, petitioned, lectured, picketed, and faced imprisonment in pursuit of the right to vote. Drawing from the Library’s extensive collections of photos, personal papers, and the organizational records of such figures as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Church Terrell, Carrie Chapman Catt, the National Woman’s Party, and the National American Woman Suffrage Association, *Shall Not Be Denied* traces the movement leading to the women’s rights convention at Seneca Falls, the contributions of suffragists who worked to persuade women that they deserved the same rights as men, the divergent political strategies and internal divisions they overcame, the push for a federal women’s suffrage amendment, and the legacy of the movement.

A companion to the exhibition staged by the Library of Congress, which opened on June 4, 2019—the 100th anniversary of the US Senate’s passage of the suffrage amendment that would become the 19th amendment—*Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote* is part of the national commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.

Published by Rutgers University Press in association with the Library of Congress.


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**CARLA D. HAYDEN** is 14th Librarian of Congress. She is the first woman and the first African American to lead the national library. Previously she served as CEO of the the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland and as the deputy commissioner and chief librarian of the Chicago Public Library. She served as president of the American Library Association from 2003 to 2004.
Treacherous Texts
An Anthology of U.S. Suffrage Literature, 1846–1946
EDITED BY MARY CHAPMAN AND ANGELA MILLS

“This exciting anthology has no competitors. With an impressive historical range and a great diversity of primary documents and useful reference materials, Treacherous Texts offers an original contribution to scholarship and an important classroom teaching tool.”
—Ann Ardis, University of Delaware

“Treacherous Texts highlights diversity and contestation within the U.S. suffrage movement by mining activists’ innovative use of literature and print culture. This rich and varied collection addresses critical issues in the suffrage campaign in ways that will engage history and literature students and scholars alike.”
—Nancy A. Hewitt, Rutgers University

“Treacherous Texts is an invaluable resource, one that reminds twenty-first-century readers of the richness, complexity, innovation, and experimentation of the American suffrage movement and makes a strong argument for the continued study of this burgeoning field.”
—Legacy

Treacherous Texts collects more than sixty literary texts written by smart, savvy writers who experimented with genre, aesthetics, humor, and sex appeal in an effort to persuade American readers to support woman suffrage. Although the suffrage campaign is often associated in popular memory with oratory, this anthology affirms that suffragists recognized early on that literature could also exert a power to move readers to imagine new roles for women in the public sphere.

Uncovering startling affinities between popular literature and propaganda, Treacherous Texts samples a rich, decades-long tradition of suffrage literature created by writers from diverse racial, class, and regional backgrounds. Beginning with sentimental fiction and polemic, progressing through modernist and middlebrow experiments, and concluding with post-ratification memoirs and tributes, this anthology showcases lost and neglected fiction, poetry, drama, literary journalism, and autobiography; it also samples innovative print cultural forms devised for the campaign, such as valentines, banners, and cartoons.

MARY CHAPMAN is an associate professor of English at the University of British Columbia. She is the coeditor of Sentimental Men: Masculinity and the Politics of Affect in American Culture.

ANGELA MILLS is a former assistant professor of English at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.
Best Actress
The History of Oscar®-Winning Women

STEPHEN TAPERT

FOREWORD BY ROXANE GAY

“This book presents a frank and timely narrative of the boundary-pushing winners of the Best Actress Oscar and should be on every library shelf.”
—Andie MacDowell

“A smart and thought-provoking journey that doesn’t miss a bump or a turn in its depiction of the important role women have played in the development of American cinema.”
—Liza Minnelli

“This book is a valuable contribution that illustrates the profound changes that have characterized the role of women in the film world while demonstrating—time and again—how the ability to entertain is never far from the front lines of social change.”
—Susan Sarandon

“This book is a wonderful opportunity to retrace the history of the Academy Awards through the great actresses who have won its top prize, this book shines an important spotlight on the prejudices that women in the film industry have continuously battled.”
—Alberto Barbera, Venice Film Festival Artistic Director

Above: Making history and generating a rousing standing ovation, Halle Berry became the first (and, to date, only) Black woman to win the Best Actress Oscar at the 2002 Academy Awards.
Credit: © A.M.P.A.S.® /Photofest

Right: Audrey Hepburn, around the time she appeared in Roman Holiday (1953). Almost overnight, the actress—known for her “less is more” aesthetic—transformed into a style and fashion icon.
Credit: Photofest
Women Artists on the Leading Edge
Visual Arts of Douglass College

JOAN M. MARTER

"Joan Marter's Women Artists on the Leading Edge: Visual Arts at Douglass College is a significant account from an actual participant of the pioneering art program for women students developed at Rutgers after WW II [and] detail[s] and celebrat[es] the decisive role Douglass played as an incubator for artistic innovation by women."

"At long last, the extraordinary history of how this college fostered the growth of such celebrated artists as Alice Aycock, Jackie Winsor, and Joan Snyder is being thoroughly recounted by esteemed art historian Joan Marter."
—Robert Hobbs, author of Alice Aycock, Sculpture and Projects

"This book's recollections of creative growth by former students forms an institutional history of the confluence of interdisciplinary arts, feminist values, and innovative pedagogy in stimulating achievements by women"
—Suzaan Boettger, author of Earthworks, Art and the Landscape of the Sixties

The women who studied with avant-garde artists at Douglass were among the first students in the nation to be introduced to performance art, conceptual art, Fluxus, and Pop Art and to experience new approaches to artmaking that rejected the predominant style of the 1950s: Abstract Expressionism. The New Art was espoused by faculty including Robert Watts, Allan Kaprow, Roy Lichtenstein, Geoffrey Hendricks, and others who advocated that art should be based on everyday life.

Ultimately, the artistic careers of these young women have reflected the successful interaction of students with a cutting-edge faculty. From this BA and MFA program in the Visual Arts emerged women such as Alice Aycock, Rita Myers, Joan Snyder, Mimi Smith, and Jackie Winsor, who went on to become lifelong innovators. Even before the inception of the women's art movement of the 1970s, these women students were encouraged to pursue professional careers, and to remain independent in their approach to making art. From these directions emerged a “proto-feminist” art of great originality identified with women’s issues. The legacy of these artists can be found in radical changes in art instruction since the 1950s, the promotion of non-hierarchical approaches to media, and acceptance of conceptual art as a viable art form.

JOAN M. MARTER is Editor-in-Chief of Woman's Art Journal since 2006. She is the author of numerous books, exhibition catalogs and articles. Titles include Women of Abstract Expressionism (Yale 2017) and Off Limits: Rutgers University and the Avant-Garde, 1957-63 (Rutgers 1999). Dr. Marter is Distinguished Professor Emerita at Rutgers, where she taught Art History for 38 years.

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October 2019
Fall Winter 19-20
Art • Women's Studies • Education

Part 1
Visual Arts Faculty at Douglass College
Interview with Geoffrey Hendricks
Interview with Roy Lichtenstein

Part 2
Alice Aycock
Loretta Dunkelman
Kirsten Kraa
Frances Tannenbaum Kuehn
Linda Lindroth
Marion Munk
Rita Myers
Mimi Smith
Joan Snyder
Ann Tsubota
Jackie Winsor
Interview with Alice Aycock
Interview with Letty Lou Eisenhauer
Interview with Mimi Smith

Part 3
The Women Artists Series at Douglass College
Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series at 21 Years
Exhibitions at the Walters Hall Art Gallery, Douglass College
Conclusion
“Women have learned to find fortitude in sharing the truth of their lives—not because we have the same truth, but because we find community and support there. The stories in this honest and loving book will give strength to those experiencing widowhood and wisdom to those trying to help them build the rest of their lives.”
—Suzanne Braun Levine, author of Inventing the Rest of Our Lives: Women in Second Adulthood

“Widows’ Words is an invaluable tool for understanding loss, mourning and grief, and an equally fascinating and compelling read with diverse and varied points of views, which proved to me that every loss is unique yet universal. Nan Bauer-Maglin has brought together many strong female voices that both define and redefine the concept of ‘widow.’”
—Jonathan Santlofer, author of The Widower’s Notebook: A Memoir

“This collection is a comforting, necessary companion for the many, many women whose love outlasts their partners’ lives. The stories are honest, unsentimental and as complicated and varied as marriages themselves.”
—Anna Sale, host of the WNYC Studios podcast Death, Sex & Money

Becoming a widow is one of the most traumatic life events that a woman can experience. Yet, as this remarkable new collection reveals, each woman responds to that trauma differently. Here, forty-three widows tell their stories, in their own words.

Some were widowed young, while others were married for decades. Some cared for their late partners through long terminal illnesses, while others lost their partners suddenly. Some had male partners, while others had female partners. Yet each of these women faced the same basic dilemma: how to go on living when a part of you is gone.

Widows’ Words is arranged chronologically, starting with stories of women preparing for their partners’ deaths, followed by the experiences of recent widows still reeling from their fresh loss, and culminating in the accounts of women who lost their partners many years ago but still experience waves of grief. Their accounts deal honestly with feelings of pain, sorrow, and despair, and yet there are also powerful expressions of strength, hope, and even joy. Whether you are a widow yourself or have simply experienced loss, you will be sure to find something moving and profound in these diverse tales of mourning, remembrance, and resilience.

NAN BAUER-MAGLIN worked at City University of New York for almost forty years as a professor and administrator. She now volunteers for Girls Write Now and The Whitney Museum. She is the editor or coeditor of many books, including Cut Loose: (Mostly) Older Women Talk about the End of (Mostly) Long-term Relationships.
If you are transgendered, the feeling of wanting your body to match the sex you feel you are never goes away. For some, though, especially those who grew up before trans people were widely out and advocating for equality, these feelings were often compartmentalized and rarely acted upon. Now that gender reassignment has become much more commonplace, many of these people may feel increasing pressure to finally undergo the procedures they have always secretly wanted.

Ken Koch was one of those people. Married twice, a veteran, and a world traveler, a health scare when he was sixty-three prompted him to acknowledge the feelings that had plagued him since he was a small child. By undergoing a host of procedures, he radically changed his appearance and became Anne Koch. In the process though, Anne lost everything that Ken had accomplished. She had to remake herself from the ground up. Hoping to help other people in her age bracket who may be considering transitioning, Anne describes the step by step procedures that she underwent, and shares the cost to her personal life, in order to show seniors that although it is never too late to become the person you always knew you were, it is better to go into that new life prepared for some serious challenges. Both a fascinating memoir of a well-educated man growing up trans yet repressed in the mid-twentieth century, and a guidebook to navigating the tricky waters of gender reassignment as a senior, *It Never Goes Away* shows how what we see in the television world of *Transparent* translates in real life.

ANNE L. KOCH, D.M.D., a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania is the founder and past director of the postdoctoral program in endodontics and microsurgery at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She was also CEO and president of her own successful technology and development company, Real World Endo. Dr. Koch is currently a professor in the department of endodontics, and a senior fellow with Penn Medicine, at the University of Pennsylvania as well as a faculty member at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.
Love, Anarchy, & Emma Goldman: A Biography

CANDACE FALK

“What this remarkable book does . . . is to remind us of that passion, that revolutionary fervor, that camaraderie, that persistence in the face of political defeat and personal despair so needed in our time as in theirs.”
—Howard Zinn

“Fascinating . . . With marvelous clarity and depth, Candace Falk illuminates for us an Emma Goldman shaped by her time yet presaging in her life the situation and conflicts of women in our time.”
—Tillie Olsen

“To read the sometimes sappy, often moving, ever scandalous love letters of Emma Goldman and her great passion Ben Reitman is to ride the roller coaster of True Romance. Candace Falk renders a valuable service by giving us plain the inside story of this intense ten-year affair.”
—Alix Kates Shulman

One of the most famous political activists of all time, Emma Goldman was also infamous for her radical anarchist views and her “scandalous” personal life. In public, Goldman was a firebrand, confidently agitating for labor reform, anarchism, birth control, and women’s independence. But behind closed doors she was more vulnerable, especially when it came to the love of her life.

Reissued on the sesquicentennial of Emma Goldman’s birth, Love, Anarchy, & Emma Goldman is an account of Goldman’s legendary career as a political activist. But it is more than that—it is a biography that offers an intimate look at how Goldman’s passion for social reform dovetailed with her passion for one man: Chicago activist, hobo king, and red-light district gynecologist Ben Reitman. Candace Falk takes us into the heart of their tumultuous love affair, finding that even as Goldman lectured on free love, she confronted her own intense jealousy.

As director of the Emma Goldman papers, Falk had access to over 40,000 writings by Goldman—including her private letters and notes—and she draws upon these archives to give us a rare insight into this brilliant, complex woman’s thoughts. The result is both a riveting love story and a primer on an exciting, explosive era in American politics and intellectual life.

CANDACE FALK is the editor and director of the Emma Goldman Papers, a project of the University of California, Berkeley and of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives. She was awarded the Kanner Prize for the best bibliographical work in Women’s History, as well as a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.
Serial Selves
Identity and Representation in Autobiographical Comics

FREDERIK BYRN KØHLERT

“In this engrossing and tremendously insightful book, Køhlert deftly analyzes comics as a visual form with the precision of a surgeon’s scalpel, paying close attention to the myriad ways comics authors use the formal elements unique to comics to express meaning and embody their intentions. By discussing these five authors in concert, Køhlert not only sheds new light on their individual works, but he also points to the potential for the medium to serve as a powerful vehicle to represent issues around the body. This is an invaluable text for anyone teaching comics.”
—Nick Sousanis, author of Unflattening

“Serial Selves leaps past the existing scholarship on autobiographical comics, bringing a fuller sense of context and more diverse corpus. Persistently, and brilliantly, Køhlert reminds us that the choice between formal rigor and social engagement is a false one, and that comics studies at its best achieves both. Synthesizing a tremendous range of research—from autobiography theory, trauma theory, gender studies, disability studies, and other fields—he approaches neglected or misunderstood works, asks tough questions, and, in every case, uses close formal analysis to unpack issues of subjectivity and identity formation. A watershed work.”
—Charles Hatfield, author of Hand of Fire: The Comics Art of Jack Kirby

Autobiography is one of the most dynamic and quickly-growing genres in contemporary comics and graphic narratives. In Serial Selves, Frederik Byrn Køhlert examines the genre’s potential for representing lives and perspectives that have been socially marginalized or excluded. With a focus on the comics form’s ability to produce alternative and challenging autobiographical narratives, thematic chapters investigate the work of artists writing from perspectives of marginality including gender, sexuality, disability, and race, as well as trauma. Interdisciplinary in scope and attuned to theories and methods from both literary and visual studies, the book provides detailed formal analysis to show that the highly personal and hand-drawn aesthetics of comics can help artists push against established narrative and visual conventions, and in the process invent new ways of seeing and being seen.

As the first comparative study of how comics artists from a wide range of backgrounds use the form to write and draw themselves into cultural visibility, Serial Selves will be of interest to anyone interested in the current boom in autobiographical comics, as well as issues of representation in comics and visual culture more broadly.

FREDERIK BYRN KØHLERT is a lecturer in the School of Art, Media, and American Studies at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom. He is the author of The Chicago Literary Experience: Writing the City, 1893-1953.
Living When Everything Changed
My Life in Academia

MARY KAY THOMPSON TETREAULT

Entering the academy at the dawn of the women's rights movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the first generation of feminist academics had a difficult journey. With few female role models, they had to forge their own path and prove that feminist scholarship was a legitimate enterprise. Later, when many of these scholars moved into administrative positions, hoping to reform the university system from within, they encountered entrenched hierarchies, bureaucracies, and old boys' networks that made it difficult to put their feminist principles into practice.

In this compelling memoir, Mary Kay Thompson Tetreault describes how a Catholic girl from small-town Nebraska discovered her callings as a feminist, as an academic, and as a university administrator. She recounts her experiences at three very different schools: the small progressive Lewis & Clark College, the massive regional university of Cal State Fullerton, and the rapidly expanding Portland State University. Reflecting on both her accomplishments and challenges, she considers just how much second-wave feminism has transformed academia and how much reform is still needed.

With remarkable candor and compassion, Thompson Tetreault provides an intimate personal look at an era when both women's lives and university culture changed for good.

MARY KAY THOMPSON TETREAULT is provost emerita at Portland State University in Oregon. She is also the author or coauthor of several books, including The Feminist Classroom: Dynamics of Gender, Race, and Privilege.
You’re Doing it Wrong!
Mothering, Media, and Medical Expertise

BETHANY L. JOHNSON AND MARGARET M. QUINLAN

“Through analyses of historical and contemporary cases, especially the careful study of social media and smart phone apps, Johnson and Quinlan raise important questions about expertise and power relations in defining the good mother.”
—Rima D. Apple, author of Perfect Motherhood: Science and Childbearing in America

“Combining historical insights and of-the-minute analyses of social media platforms, Johnson and Quinlan persuasively argue for a rethinking of what we “know” about expertise and the often-fraught journey of early motherhood.”
—Kristin Celello, coeditor of Domestic Tensions, National Anxieties: Global Perspectives on Marriage, Crisis, and Nation

New mothers face a barrage of confounding decisions during the life-cycle of early motherhood which is... Should they change their diet or mindset to conceive? Exercise while pregnant? Should they opt for a home birth or head for a hospital? Whatever they “choose,” they will be sure to find plenty of medical expertise from health practitioners to social media “influencers” telling them that they’re making a series of mistakes. As intersectional feminists with two small children each, Bethany L. Johnson and Margaret M. Quinlan draw from their own experiences as well as stories from a range of caretakers throughout.

You’re Doing it Wrong! investigates the storied history of mothering advice in the media, from the newspapers, magazines, doctors’ records and personal papers of the nineteenth-century to today’s websites, Facebook groups, and Instagram feeds. Johnson and Quinlan find surprising parallels between today’s mothering experts and their Victorian counterparts, but they also explore how social media has placed unprecedented pressures on new mothers, even while it may function as social support for some. They further examine the contentious construction of prenatal and baby care expertise itself, as individuals such as everyone from medical professionals to experienced moms have competed to have their expertise acknowledged in the public sphere.

Exploring potential health crises from infertility treatments to “better babies” milestones, You’re Doing it Wrong! provides a provocative look at historical and contemporary medical expertise during conception, pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, and infant care stages.

BETHANY L. JOHNSON is an instructor in history and a research affiliate faculty in communication studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

MARGARET M. QUINLAN is an associate professor of communication studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
Beyond Repair?
Mayan Women’s Protagonism in the Aftermath of Genocidal Harm
ALISON CROSBY AND M. BRINTON LYKES

“Extremely persuasive and admirably clear, Beyond Repair? emphasizes the need to analyze gender violence through the historical lens of colonized racial violence and underlines the centrality of the justice constructions and engagements of Mayan women.”

—Rachel Sieder, editor of Demanding Justice and Security in Latin America: Indigenous Women and Legal Pluralities in Latin America

“This deeply researched book follows Mayan women as they search for justice in the aftermath of sexual violence. Using feminist participatory research methods, the authors attend to both suffering and protagonism.”

— Kimberly Theidon, author of Intimate Enemies: Violence and Reconciliation in Peru

Beyond Repair? explores Mayan women’s agency in the search for redress for harm suffered during the genocidal violence perpetrated by the Guatemalan state in the early 1980s at the height of the thirty-six-year armed conflict. The book draws on research conducted with fifty-four Q’eqchi’, Kaqchikel, Chuj, and Mam women who are seeking truth, justice, and reparation for the violence they experienced during the war, and the women’s rights activists, lawyers, psychologists, Mayan rights activists, and researchers who have accompanied them as intermediaries for over a decade. Alison Crosby and M. Brinton Lykes argue that at different moments Mayan women have been actively engaged as protagonists in constructivist and discursive performances through which they have narrated new, mobile meanings of “Mayan woman.”

ALISON CROSBY is an associate professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies and the director of the Centre for Feminist Research at York University, Toronto, Canada.

M. BRINTON LYKES is a professor of community-cultural psychology and co-director of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College in Massachusetts. She is the author or editor of several books, including The New Deportations Delirium: Interdisciplinary Responses.

Genocide, Political Violence, Human Rights
Women and Music in the Age of Austen
EDITED BY LINDA ZIONKOWSKI AND MIRIAM F. HART

Women and Music in the Age of Austen highlights the central role women played in musical performance, composition, reception, and representation, and analyzes its formative and lasting effect on Georgian culture. This interdisciplinary collection of essays from musicology, literary studies, and gender studies challenges the conventional historical categories that marginalize women’s experience from Austen’s time. Contesting the distinctions between professional and amateur musicians, public and domestic sites of musical production, and performers and composers, the contributors reveal how women’s widespread involvement in the Georgian musical scene allowed for self-expression, artistic influence, and access to communities that transcended the boundaries of gender, class, and nationality. This volume’s breadth of focus advances our understanding of a period that witnessed a musical flourishing, much of it animated by female hands and voices.

LINDA ZIONKOWSKI is the Samuel and Susan Crowl Professor of Literature at Ohio University in Athens. She is the author of Men’s Work: Gender, Class, and the Professionalization of Poetry, 1660–1784 and Women and Gift Exchange in Eighteenth-Century Fiction: Richardson, Burney, Austen.

MIRIAM F. HART received her PhD at Ohio University in Athens after twenty years of touring as a singer, recording with the Allman Brothers as well as with her group, The Local Girls. She has performed at the White House, on A Prairie Home Companion, and at numerous musical festivals and venues across the United States.

Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850
“Hannah Whitman Heyde’s Complete Correspondence is a powerful addition to Walt Whitman family correspondence, one with which future biographers must reckon.... Hannah’s lifelong struggle, with minimal family support, was against intimate partner psychological abuse and physical violence, and against the weight of public opinion that made the truth about her marriage unspeakable in her era. Like Virginia Woolf’s imaginary sister to Shakespeare, the great American poet Walt Whitman had a favorite sister, but much documentary evidence about Hannah’s life survives, and it tells a story with immediate relevance in the #metoo era.”

—Wesley Raabe, editor of ‘walter dear’: The Letters from Louisa Van Velsor Whitman to Her Son Walt

The correspondence of Hannah Whitman Heyde, younger sister of poet Walt Whitman, provides a rare glimpse into the life of a nineteenth-century woman. Married to well-known Vermont landscape artist Charles Louis Heyde (1820-1892), Hannah documented in letters to her mother, Louisa Van Velsor Whitman (1795-1873), and other family members, her lived experience of ongoing physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband. Hannah has long been characterized in biographical and scholarly studies of Whitman’s family as a neurotic and a hypochondriac—a narrative promulgated by Heyde himself—but Walt Whitman carefully preserved his sister’s letters, telling his literary biographer that his intention was to document her plight. Hannah’s complete letters, gathered here for the first time and painstakingly edited and annotated by Maire Mullins, provide an important counternarrative, allowing readers insight into the life of a real nineteenth-century woman, sister and wife to famous men, who endured and eventually survived domestic violence.

HANNAH WHITMAN HEYDE (1823-1908) was the fourth child of Walter Whitman Sr. and Louisa Van Velsor Whitman. She was educated in Brooklyn, NY and Hempstead, Long Island. In 1852 she married the landscape painter Charles Louis Heyde, and for forty years, captured her life experience in correspondence with her family. She died at age 85 in Burlington, VT.

MAIRE MULLINS is a professor of English at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. Her areas of expertise include Walt Whitman, Hannah Whitman Heyde, digital humanities, religion and literature, and gender studies.
A Genealogy of the Gentleman
Women Writers and Masculinity in the Eighteenth Century
MARY BETH HARRIS

A Genealogy of the Gentleman argues that eighteenth-century women writers made key interventions in modern ideals of masculinity and authorship through their narrative constructions of the gentleman. It challenges two latent critical assumptions: first, that the gentleman’s masculinity is normative, private, and therefore oppositional to concepts of performance; and second, that women writers, from their disadvantaged position within a patriarchal society, had no real means of influencing dominant structures of masculinity. By placing writers such as Mary Davys, Eliza Haywood, Charlotte Lennox, Elizabeth Inchbald, and Mary Robinson in dialogue with canonical representatives of the gentleman author—Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, David Hume, Samuel Johnson, and Samuel Richardson—Mary Beth Harris shows how these women carved out a space for their literary authority not by overtly opposing their male critics and society’s patriarchal structure but by rewriting the persona of the gentleman as a figure whose very desirability and appeal were dependent on women’s influence. Ultimately, this project considers the import of these women writers’ legacy, both progressive and conservative, on hegemonic standards of masculinity that persist to this day.

MARY BETH HARRIS is an assistant professor at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Her most recent work can be found in Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature, The Eighteenth-Century, as well as in two edited collections, Castration, Impotence, and Emasculation in the Long Eighteenth-Century and A Spy on Eliza Haywood: Addresses to a Multifarious Writer.

Objects of Liberty
British Women Writers and Revolutionary Souvenirs
PAMELA BUCK

Objects of Liberty explores the prevalence of souvenirs in British women’s writing during the French Revolution and Napoleonic era. It argues that women writers employed the material and memorial object of the souvenir to circulate revolutionary ideas and engage in the masculine realm of political debate. While souvenir collecting was a standard practice of privileged men on the eighteenth-century Grand Tour, women began to partake in this endeavor as political events in France heightened interest in travel to the Continent. Looking at travel accounts by Helen Maria Williams, Mary Wollstonecraft, Catherine and Martha Wilmot, Charlotte Eaton, and Mary Shelley, this study reveals how they used souvenirs to affect political thought in Britain and contribute to conversations about individual and national identity. At a time when gendered beliefs precluded women from full citizenship, they used souvenirs to redefine themselves as legitimate political actors. Objects of Liberty is a story about the ways that women established political power and agency through material culture.

PAMELA BUCK is associate professor of English at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Her research focuses primarily on women’s writing and material culture in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British literature.

Literary Studies • Gender Studies

History • Art • Women’s Studies
Feminist Comedy
Women Playwrights of London
WILLOW WHITE

Feminist Comedy: Women Playwrights of London identifies the eighteenth-century comedic stage as a key site of feminist critique, practice, and experimentation. While the history of feminism and comedy is undeniably vexed, by focusing on five women playwrights of the latter half of the eighteenth century—Catherine Clive, Frances Brooke, Frances Burney, Hannah Cowley, and Elizabeth Inchbald—this book demonstrates that stage comedy was crucial to these women's professional success in a male-dominated industry and reveals a unifying thread of feminist critique that connects their works. Though male detractors denied women’s comic ability throughout the era, eighteenth-century women playwrights were on the cutting edge of comedy, and their work had important feminist influence that can be traced to today’s stages and screens.

WILLOW WHITE is assistant professor at the University of Alberta and her research focuses on English theatre and literature of the long eighteenth century with specialization in women writers, literatures of empire, and Indigeneity. She coedited A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison with Tiffany Potter, and her work has appeared in such journals as Women's Writing and Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Redreaming the Renaissance
Essays on History and Literature in Honor of Guido Ruggiero
EDITED BY MARY LINDEMANN AND DEANNA SHEMEK

Redreaming the Renaissance seeks to remedy the dearth of conversations between scholars of history and literary studies by building on the pathbreaking work of Guido Ruggiero to explore the cross-fertilization between these two disciplines, using the textual world of the Italian Renaissance as proving ground. In this volume, these disciplines blur, as they did for early moderns, who did not always distinguish between the historical and literary significance of the texts they read and produced. Literature here is broadly conceived to include not only belles lettres but also other forms of artful writing that flourished in the period, including philosophical writings on dreams and prophecy; life-writing; religious debates; menu descriptions and other food writing; diaries, news reports, ballads, and protest songs; and scientific discussions. The twelve essays in this collection examine the role that the volume’s dedicatee has played in bringing the disciplines of history and literary studies into provocative conversation, as well as the methodology needed to sustain and enrich this conversation.

MARY LINDEMANN is professor emerita of history, University of Miami. Her most recent books include: Liaisons dangereuses: Sex, Law, and Diplomacy in the Age of Frederick the Great, and Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe.

DEANNA SHEMEK is professor of Italian and European studies at the University of California, Irvine. She is author of Ladies Errant: Wayward Women and Social Order in Early Modern Italy and of In Continuous Expectation: Isabella d’Este’s Reign of Letters.
The Visionary Queen
Justice, Reform, and the Labyrinth in Marguerite de Navarre

THERESA BROCK

The Visionary Queen affirms Marguerite de Navarre's status not only as a political figure, author, or proponent of nonschismatic reform but also as a visionary. In her life and writings, the queen of Navarre dissected the injustices that her society and its institutions perpetuated against women. We also see evidence that she used her literary texts, especially the Heptaméron, as an exploratory space in which to generate a creative vision for institutional reform. The Heptaméron's approach to reform emerges from statistical analysis of the text's seventy-two tales, which reveals new insights into trends within the work, including the different categories of wrongdoing by male, institutional representatives from the Church and aristocracy, as well as the varying responses to injustice that characters in the tales employ as they pursue reform. Throughout its chapters, The Visionary Queen foregrounds the trope of the labyrinth, a potent symbol in early modern Europe that encapsulated the fallen world and redemption all at once, themes that Marguerite's project of reform consistently hark back to.

THERESA BROCK is an assistant professor of French studies at Smith College. She received her PhD from Penn State and has published articles on women writers, literary genre, and religious studies in the early modern era, with particular emphasis on the sixteenth century.
Fictions of Pleasure
The Putain Memoirs of Prerevolutionary France
ALISTAIRE TALLENT

Out of the libertine literary tradition of eighteenth-century France emerged over a dozen memoir novels of female libertines who eagerly take up sex work as a means of escape from the patriarchal control of fathers and husbands to pursue pleasure, wealth, and personal independence outside the private, domestic sphere. In these anonymously published novels, the heroines proudly declare themselves prostitutes, or putains, and use the desire they arouse, the professional skills they develop, and the network of female friends they create to exploit, humiliate, and financially ruin wealthy and powerful men. In pursuing their desires, the putains challenge contemporary notions of womanhood and expose the injustices of ancien-régime France. Until the French Revolution spelled the end of the genre, these novels proposed not only an appealing libertine utopia in which libertine women enjoy the same benefits as their male counterparts but also entirely new ways of looking at systems of power, gender, and sexuality.

ALISTAIRE TALLENT lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she is associate professor of French at Colorado College. She has published numerous book chapters and articles in such journals as Romance Review, French Forum, and Theatrum historiae.

Early Modern Feminisms
Gendering the Renaissance
Text and Context in Early Modern Italy
EDITED BY MEREDITH K. RAY AND LYNN LARA WESTWATER

The essays in this volume revisit the Italian Renaissance to rethink spaces thought to be defined and certain: from the social spaces of convent, court, or home, to the literary spaces of established genres such as religious plays or epic poetry. Repopulating these spaces with the women who occupied them but have often been elided in the historical record, the essays also remind us to ask what might obscure our view of texts and archives, what has remained marginal in the texts and contexts of early modern Italy and why. The contributors, suggesting new ways of interrogating gendered discourses of genre, identities, and sanctity, offer a complex picture of gender in early modern Italian literature and culture. Read in dialogue with one another, their pieces provide a fascinating survey of currents in gender studies and early modern Italian studies and point to exciting future directions in these fields.


LYNN LARA WESTWATER is Professor of Italian at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Her books include *Sarra Copia Sulam: A Salonnière and the Press in Counter-Reformation Venice* (2020).

The Early Modern Exchange
Votes for Delaware Women

ANNE M. BOYLAN

Votes for Delaware Women is the first book-length study of the woman suffrage struggle in Delaware, placing it within the rich historical scholarship on the national story. It looks especially at why, despite decades of suffrage organizing and an epic struggle in Dover, in the spring of 1920, the legislature refused to make Delaware the final state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. The book traces how, starting in the 1890s, white and African American women organized and advocated for “votes for women,” first by revising the state constitution and then through a federal amendment. Within the state’s two major suffrage organizations, the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association (DESA), an affiliate of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), and the Delaware branch of the National Woman’s Party (NWP), divisions over strategy and tactics widened into fissures, especially during the Great War, making it difficult to combine in a common endeavor. Delaware was unusual as a border state that was segregated but did not disfranchise African Americans. In the end, the book argues, a combination of racial and class issues doomed the ratification effort.

ANNE M. BOYLAN is a professor emerita of history and women and gender studies at the University of Delaware in Newark. She is the author of Sunday School: The Formation of An American Institution, 1790-1880; The Origins of Women’s Activism: New York and Boston, 1797-1840; and Women’s Rights in the United States: A History in Documents.

Cultural Studies of Delaware and the Eastern Shore
Black Celebrity
Contemporary Representations of Postbellum Athletes and Artists

EMILY RUTH RUTTER

Black Celebrity examines representations of postbellum black athletes and artist-entertainers by novelists Caryl Phillips and Jeffery Renard Allen and poets Kevin Young, Frank X Walker, Adrian Matejka, and Tyehimba Jess. Inhabiting the perspectives of boxer Jack Johnson and musicians "Blind Tom" Wiggins and Sissieretta Jones, along with several others, these writers retrain readers’ attention away from athletes’ and entertainers’ overdetermined bodies and toward their complex inner lives. Phillips, Allen, Young, Walker, Matejka, and Jess especially plumb the emotional archive of desire, anxiety, pain, and defiance engendered by the racial hypervisibility and depersonalization that has long characterized black stardom. In the process, these novelists and poets and, in turn, the present book revise understandings of black celebrity history while evincing the through lines between the postbellum era and our own time.

EMILY RUTH RUTTER is an Associate Professor of English at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She is the author of Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball behind the Color Line and The Blues Muse: Race, Gender, and Musical Celebrity in American Poetry, as well as co-editor of Revisiting the Elegy in the Black Lives Matter Era.

Carrying All before Her
Celebrity Pregnancy and the London Stage, 1689-1800

CHELSEA PHILLIPS

The rise of celebrity stage actresses in the long eighteenth century created a class of women who worked in the public sphere while facing considerable scrutiny about their offstage lives. Such powerful celebrity women used the cultural and affective significance of their reproductive bodies to leverage audience support and interest to advance their careers, and eighteenth-century London patent theatres even capitalized on their pregnancies. Carrying All before Her uses the reproductive histories of six celebrity women (Susanna Mountfort Verbruggen, Anne Oldfield, Susannah Cibber, George Anne Bellamy, Sarah Siddons, and Dorothy Jordan) to demonstrate that pregnancy affected celebrity identity, impacted audience reception and interpretation of performance, changed company repertory and altered company hierarchy, influenced the development and performance of new plays, and had substantial economic consequences for both women and the companies for which they worked. Deepening the fields of celebrity, theatre, and women’s studies, as well as social and medical histories, Phillips reveals an untapped history whose relevance and impact persist today.

CHELSEA PHILLIPS is an assistant professor of theatre at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.
Transnational Marriage and Partner Migration
Constellations of Security, Citizenship, and Rights
EDITED BY ANNE-MARIE D’AOUST

“Seldom have I been so excited by an edited collection! This stimulating volume offers diverse disciplinary and geographical approaches to marriage and partner migration—increasingly recognized as a crucial aspect of international mobility. Troubling the binaries which often dog the subject—legal vs emotional, love vs interest, state vs intimacy and migrant vs citizen—Transnational Marriage and Partner Migration offers both an exciting and wide-ranging introduction for newcomers to this fascinating field, and fresh perspectives for those of us already hooked.”

—Katharine Charsley, author of Transnational Pakistani Connections: Marrying ‘Back Home’

“This multidisciplinary gem explores the emotional intimacies and legal intricacies of citizenship in today’s fraught context of ‘family’ migration politics. Doing so reveals the structural centrality of state-sanctioned marriage for reproducing—through eurocentric paradigms of love, citizenship and resource distribution—crises of sexual, racial and economic inequality. Not what most expect, and well worth a read.”

—V. Spike Peterson, co-author of Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium

ANNE-MARIE D’AOUST is an associate professor in political science at the Université du Québec à Montréal in Canada. She is the editor of Affective Economies, Neoliberalism, and Governmentality. Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Intimate Connections
Love and Marriage in Pakistan’s High Mountains
ANNA-MARIA WALTER

Intimate Connections dissects ideas, feelings, and practices around love, marriage, and respectability in the remote high mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan. It offers insightful perspectives from the emotional lives of Shia women and their active engagement with their husbands. These gender relations are shaped by countless factors, including embodied values of modesty and honor, vernacular fairy tales and Bollywood movies, Islamic revivalism and development initiatives. In particular, the advent of media and communication technologies has left a mark on (pre)marital relations in both South Asia and the wider Muslim world. Juxtaposing different understandings of ‘love’ reveals rich and manifold worlds of courtship, elopements, family dynamics, and more or less affectionate matches that are nowadays often initiated through SMS. Deep ethnographic accounts trace the relationships between young couples to show how Muslim women in a globalized world dynamically frame and negotiate circumstances in their lives.

ANNA-MARIA WALTER is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oulu in Finland.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts
Latinas on the Line
Invisible Information Workers in Telecommunications
MELISSA VILLA-NICHOLAS

“Villa-Nicholas weaves together oral histories and social politics to deliver an
encompassing history about Latina information laborers and how they were
embedded into telecommunications. It is a deeply compassionate book about
community and resilience amidst discrimination and corporate uncertainties at
AT&T.”
—Sharra Vostral, author of Toxic Shock: A Social History

“Melissa Villa-Nicholas deftly shows how our telecommunications infrastructure,
and the labor that undergirds it, have been central to struggles for civil rights.
Latinas On The Line is a beautifully written, deeply personal history of a tech labor
force that has been simultaneously ubiquitous and hidden—it is a history that
holds important lessons about modernization, marginalization, and the exclusion
still built in to STEM workforces.”
—Mar Hicks, author of Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women
Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing

MELISSA VILLA-NICHOLAS is an assistant professor at the Harrington
School of Media and Communications and the Graduate School of Library
and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island.
The American Girl Goes to War
Women and National Identity in US Silent Film
LIZ CLARKE

“Documenting the many heroic women who populated war films of this era, Liz Clarke shows the strength and vitality of female characters onscreen, while remaining attentive to the key role that white femininity played in narratives of American national identity during this period. Framing her analysis within a rich cultural context, Clarke show how essential cinema was to evolving ideas about both nationhood and femininity in the first decades of the twentieth century.”
—Shelley Stamp, author of Movie-Struck Girls and Lois Weber in Early Hollywood

During the 1910s, films about war often featured a female protagonist. The films portrayed women as spies, cross-dressing soldiers, and athletic defenders of their homes—roles typically reserved for men and that contradicted gendered-expectations of home-front women waiting for their husbands, sons, and brothers to return from battle. The representation of American martial spirit—particularly in the form of heroines—has a rich history in film in the years just prior to the American entry into World War I. The American Girl Goes to War demonstrates the predominance of heroic female characters in in early narrative films about war from 1908 to 1919. American Girls were filled with the military spirit of their forefathers and became one of the major ways that American women’s changing political involvement, independence, and active natures were contained by and subsumed into pre-existing American ideologies.

LIZ CLARKE is an assistant professor in communication, popular culture and film at Brock University in Ontario, Canada.

War Culture
See Me Naked
Black Women Defining Pleasure during the Interwar Era
TARA T. GREEN

“Whatever you think you know about the project of ‘respectability politics’ in Black life, letters and history will be upended in See Me Naked. A bold feminist examination of pleasure in the Interwar Period through some of our most enduring feminist legends—Ma Rainey and Moms Mabley among others—Green’s astute and captivating assessment here will open doors for new imaginings of blackness.”
—Sharon P. Holland, author of The Erotic Life of Racism

Lena Horne, Moms Mabley, Yolande DuBois, and Memphis Minnie were Black women who, despite their public profiles, discovered ways to enjoy pleasure in their public and private lives. See Me Naked looks at these women as representative of Black women who were watched, criticized, and judged by their families, peers, and, in some cases, the government. Despite the pressures of respectability, they lived extraordinary lives.

TARA T. GREEN is a professor and former director of African American and African diaspora studies at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She is the author or editor of several books, including A Fatherless Child: Autobiographical Perspectives of African American Men, winner of the 2011 Outstanding Scholarship in Africana Studies Award from the National Council for Black Studies, and Reimagining the Middle Passage: Black Resistance in Literature, Television, and Song.
Bollywood’s New Woman
Liberalization, Liberation, and Contested Bodies
EDITED BY MEGHA ANWER AND ANUPAMA ARORA

“Essays in this exciting and welcome collection show us how India’s economic liberalization ushers in new figurations of women. Tracking Bollywood’s New Woman across revised filmic tropes, unconventional screen bodies, emergent technological formats and cosmopolitan geographies, they reveal gender’s starring role in the unfolding story of India’s neoliberalism and cinema.” —Priya Jaikumar, author of Where Histories Reside: India as Filmed Space

Bollywood’s New Woman examines Bollywood’s construction and presentation of the Indian Woman since the 1990s. The groundbreaking collection illuminates the contexts and contours of this contemporary figure that has been identified in sociological and historical discourses as the “New Woman.” On the one hand, this figure is a variant of the fin de siècle phenomenon of the “New Woman” in the United Kingdom and the United States. In the Indian context, the New Woman is a distinct articulation resulting from the nation’s tryst with neoliberal reform, consolidation of the middle class, and the ascendancy of aggressive Hindu right politics.

MEGHA ANWER is a clinical assistant professor in the Honors College at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.
ANUPAMA ARORA is a professor of English and women’s and gender studies at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She is co-editor (with Rajender Kaur) of India in the American Imaginary 1780s-1880s.

Dying to Count
Post-Abortion Care and Global Reproductive Health Politics in Senegal
SIRI SUH

During the early 1990s, global health experts developed a new model of emergency obstetric care: post-abortion care or PAC. In developing countries with restrictive abortion laws and where NGOs relied on U.S. family planning aid, PAC offered an apolitical approach to addressing the consequences of unsafe abortion. In Dying to Count, Siri Suh traces how national and global population politics collide in Senegal as health workers, health officials, and NGO workers strive to demonstrate PAC’s effectiveness in the absence of rigorous statistical evidence that the intervention reduces maternal mortality. Suh argues that pragmatically assembled PAC data convey commitments to maternal mortality reduction goals while obscuring the frequency of unsafe abortion and the inadequate care women with complications are likely to receive if they manage to reach a hospital. At a moment when African women face the highest risk worldwide of death from complications related to pregnancy, birth, or abortion, Suh’s ethnography of PAC in Senegal makes a critical contribution to studies of global health, population and development, African studies, and reproductive justice.

SIRI SUH is an assistant professor of sociology at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Rutgers University Press • Women’s Studies SS24
Hear #MeToo in India
News, Social Media, and Anti-Rape and Sexual Harassment Activism

PALLAVI GUHA

Hear #MeToo in India examines the role media platforms play in anti-rape and sexual harassment feminist activism in India. Including seventy-five interviews with rural and subaltern feminist activists and journalists working in urban and rural regions of India, the book proposes a nuanced framework of agenda building on rape and establishes a theoretical framework to examine media coverage of issues in the digitally emerging countries of the Global South.

In 2017, TIME announced The Silence Breakers, individuals who set off an international movement against sexual harassment, as its Person of the Year, amplifying the #MeToo movement. The intersection of issues of gender violence and activism receives inconsistent focus from the media, policymakers and the citizens. Some rapes and sexual harassments become the focus of mainstream and social media attention, while others are relegated to the background. Hear #MeToo in India emphasizes the interdependent association between social media networks and mainstream mass media which can strengthen anti-rape and sexual harassment activism. It provides a contextual framework to the relationship between subaltern anti-rape feminist activists in India and transnational anti-rape cyberfeminism and investigates why hashtags may or may not be successful in digitally emerging countries.

PALLAVI GUHA is an assistant professor of journalism at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. She has worked internationally for leading media organizations including BBC News and television and The Times of India. She has won multiple awards for her research and teaching.
Korean “Comfort Women”
Military Brothels, Brutality, and the Redress Movement
PYONG GAP MIN

“This book provides the most complete account yet of the historical situation of Korean ‘comfort women’ and of current efforts to seek redress for the survivors. Drawing upon a vast trove of first-person evidence and displaying a rigorous commitment to factual evidence, the author creates an invaluable record of past war crimes and present-day activism.”
—Margaret D. Stetz, author of Legacies of the Comfort Women of World War II

Arguably the most brutal crime committed by the Japanese military during the Asia-Pacific war was the forced mobilization of 50,000 to 200,000 Asian women to military brothels to sexually serve Japanese soldiers. The majority of these women died of physical abuse, malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, injuries from bombings or other military attacks, or other tragic circumstances. In the late 1980s, the women’s movement in South Korea helped to start the redress movement for the victims. It helped many survivors come forward to tell what happened to them.

Korean “Comfort Women” synthesizes the previous major findings about Japanese military sexual slavery and legal recommendations for an English-language audience, and provides additional findings about Korean comfort women’s life-threatening homecoming trips and their residual marriage, family, economic, and healthcare problems.

PYONG GAP MIN is a distinguished professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as well as the director of the Research Center for Korean Community. He is the author of five books.

Tortilleras Negotiating Intimacy
Love, Friendship, and Sex in Queer Mexico City
ANAHI RUSSO GARRIDO

Tortilleras Negotiating Intimacy: Love, Friendship, and Sex in Queer Mexico City is the first ethnography in English to focus primarily on women’s sexual and intimate cultures in Mexico. The book shows the transformation of intimacy in the lives of three generations of women in queer spaces in contemporary Mexico City, as their sexual citizenship changes, including references to same-sex marriage and anti-discrimination laws. The book shows how these individuals reconfigure relationships through marriage, polyamory, friendship, and sex. Tortilleras Negotiating Intimacy suggests that “new” intimate cartographies are emerging in Mexico City, ultimately redefining relationships, gender, and mexicanidad. Building on ethnographic data collected over the past decade, including forty-five in-depth interviews with women between the ages of twenty-two and sixty-five participating in LGBT spaces, Tortilleras Negotiating Intimacy shows how lesbian women (mainly cis, but some trans) negotiate friendship, same-sex marriage, polyamory, and sexual practices, reinventing love, eroticism, friendship, and ultimately the social organization of Latin American societies.

ANAHI RUSSO GARRIDO is an assistant professor of gender, women’s, and sexuality studies at Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado.
Desired States
Sex, Gender, and Political Culture in Chile
LESSIE JO FRAZIER

*Desired States* challenges the notion that in some cultures, sex and sexuality have become privatized and located in individual subjectivity rather than in public political practices and institutions. Instead, the book contends that desire is a central aspect of political culture. Based on fieldwork and archival research, Frazier explores the gendered and sexualized dynamics of political culture in Chile, an imperialist context, asking how people connect with and become mobilized in political projects in some cases or, in others, become disaffected or are excluded to varying degrees. The book situates the state in a rich and changing context of transnational and localized movements, imperialist interests, geo-political conflicts, and market forces to explore the broader struggles of desiring subjects, especially in those dimensions of life that are explicitly sexual and amorous: free love movements, marriage, the sixties’ sexual revolution in Cold War contexts, prostitution policies, ideas about men's gratification, the charisma of leaders, and sexual/domestic violence against women.

LESSIE JO FRAZIER is an associate professor in the department of American studies and the department of gender studies at Indiana University in Bloomington.

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An Open Secret
The History of Unwanted Pregnancy and Abortion in Modern Bolivia
NATALIE L. KIMBALL

Many women throughout the world face the challenge of confronting an unexpected or an unwanted pregnancy, yet these experiences are often shrouded in silence. *An Open Secret* draws on personal interviews and medical records to uncover the history of women's experiences with unwanted pregnancy and abortion in the South American country of Bolivia. This Andean nation is home to a diverse population of indigenous and mixed-race individuals who practice a range of medical traditions. Centering on the cities of La Paz and El Alto, the book explores how women decided whether to continue or terminate their pregnancies and the medical practices to which women recurred in their search for reproductive health care between the early 1950s and 2010. It demonstrates that, far from constituting private events with little impact on the public sphere, women’s intimate experiences with pregnancy contributed to changing policies and services in reproductive health in Bolivia.

NATALIE L. KIMBALL is an assistant professor of history at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.
Charting Your Path to Full
A Guide for Women Associate Professors

VICKI L. BAKER

FOREWORD BY PAMELA L. EDDY

“Informative and timely, Charting Your Path to Full will help real faculty achieve their professional goals. The exercises in the book will be beneficial to professors with numerous identities, in different disciplines, and at different institutional types.”

—Lisa Wolf-Wendel, coauthor of Academic Motherhood: How Faculty Manage Work and Family

“This excellent volume on the experiences of women at mid-career helps to diagnose and to transform the conditions, policies, and practices that get in the way of women’s advancement. Each chapter helps us clarify goals, develop community, integrate work and family, and advance work that brings us joy.”

—KerryAnn O’Meara, Director, University of Maryland ADVANCE Program

Charting Your Path to Full is a data- and literature-informed resource aimed at helping women in the professoriate excel in their careers, regardless of discipline and institution type. Vicki L. Baker draws on human resources, organizational studies, and positive organizational psychology to help women first focus on their joy as the primary driver of career and personal pursuits, and provides action steps, “To Do” lists, and additional tools and resources to lay out a clear step-by-step approach to help women academics reach their goals.

VICKI L. BAKER is a professor of economics and management at Albion College in Albion, Michigan, and an instructor in business administration at the Pennsylvania State University’s World Campus.

Revolutionizing Women’s Healthcare
The Feminist Self-Help Movement in America

HANNAH DUDLEY-SHOTWELL

“By bringing self-help to the center of a historical analysis of the women’s health movement, Revolutionizing Women’s Healthcare crucially expands our understandings of theoretical and political debates within the feminist movement around issues such as racism and ‘intersectional’ marginalization, a narrow focus on reproductive health versus ‘holistic’ approaches, and debates around the values of ‘infiltratio’ of mainstream medical care versus ‘radical’ independent feminist healthcare delivery.”


Revolutionizing Women’s Healthcare is the story of a feminist experiment: the self-help movement. This movement arose out of women’s frustration, anger, and fear for their health. Tired of visiting doctors who saw them as silly little girls, suffering shame when they asked for birth control, seeking abortions in back alleys, and holding little control over their own reproductive lives, women took action. Feminists created “self-help groups” where they examined each other’s bodies and read medical literature. They founded and ran clinics, wrote books, made movies, undertook nationwide tours, and raided and picketed offending medical institutions. The author chronicles these stories and more to showcase the creative ways women came together to do for themselves what the mainstream health care system failed to do.

HANNAH DUDLEY-SHOTWELL is Faculty Scholar in the Cormier Honors College at Longwood University, Virginia. She lives in Farmville, Virginia.
Marriage and Health
The Well-Being of Same-Sex Couples
EDITED BY HUI LIU, CORINNE RECZEK, AND LINDSEY WILKINSON

“We are only at the beginning of understanding how marriage and other types of romantic unions influence mental and physical health for same-sex couples. The editors of Marriage and Health have deftly brought together the best evidence available to tell us what is currently known and where we need to go in the future.”

—Debra Umberson, author of Death of a Parent: Transition to a New Adult Identity

Marriage and Health: The Well-Being of Same-Sex Couples represents the forefront of marriage and health research and the far-reaching policy implications for the health of same-sex couples. This collection of essays presents new perspectives that address current opportunities and challenges faced by people in same-sex unions in multiple domains of well-being, including physical and mental health, social support, socialized behaviors, and stigmas. The book offers a broad view of same-sex couples’ experiences by examining not only marriage and civil unions, but also dating and cohabiting relationships as well as same-sex sexual experiences outside of relationships.

HIU LIU is a professor of sociology at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

CORINNE RECZEK is an associate professor of sociology at Ohio State University in Columbus.

LINDSEY WILKINSON is an associate professor of sociology at Portland State University, Oregon.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Mediating the Uprising
Narratives of Gender and Marriage in Syrian Television Drama
REBECCA JOUBIN

“A huge accomplishment, Mediating the Uprising combines smart readings of Syrian television miniseries with detailed ethnographic analysis. Joubin reveals the strategies of artists—both oppositional and regime-supporters—who are testing the limits of social and political expression, and the workings of an industry navigating seven years of civil war. The book is an invaluable addition to media studies and Syrian studies.”

—Edward Ziter, author of Political Performance in Syria: From the Six-Day War to the Syrian Uprising

“Mediating the Uprising expertly reveals how Syria’s most successful transnational media products have fared during and responded to the current conflicts. Rebecca Joubin displays uncommon dexterity in how she interlaces a wealth of detail, from knowledgeable insight into sociopolitical contexts to illuminating interviews with the musalsalat’s creative personnel. This approachable book will appeal just as much to specialized scholars as to a general readership wishing to learn more about how devastating geopolitical events take their toll on our media industries and their representations of gender.”

—Kay Dickinson, author of Arab Cinema Travels: Transnational Syria, Palestine, Dubai and Beyond

REBECCA JOUBIN is an associate professor and chair of Arab studies at Davidson College, North Carolina.
Like Family
Narratives of Fictive Kinship
MARGARET K. NELSON

For decades, social scientists have assumed that “fictive kinship” is a phenomenon associated only with marginal peoples and people of color in the United States. In this innovative book, Nelson reveals the frequency, texture, and dynamics of relationships which are felt to be like family among the white, middle-class. Drawing on extensive, in-depth interviews, Nelson describes the quandaries and contradictions, delight and anxiety, benefits and costs, choice and obligation in these relationships. She shows the ways these fictive kinships are similar to one another as well as the ways they vary—whether around age or generation, co-residence, or the possibility of becoming “real” families. Moreover, she shows that different parties to the “same” relationship understand them in some similar—and some very different—ways. Theoretically rich and beautifully written, the book is accessible to the general public while breaking new ground for scholars in the field of family studies.

MARGARET K. NELSON is the A. Barton Hepburn professor of sociology emerita at Middlebury College in Vermont. She is the author of Parenting Out of Control: Anxious Parents in Uncertain Times and the co-author, with Rosanna Hertz, of Random Families: Genetic Strangers, Sperm Donor Siblings, and the Creation of New Kin.

Dangerous Masculinity
Fatherhood, Race, and Security Inside America’s Prisons
ANNA CURTIS

“This compelling ethnography reveals the excruciating cost of mass incarceration on fathers and their families. Not only do institutional policies undermine relationships between imprisoned fathers and their kids, but gendered expectations of prison masculinity often derail men’s efforts to be fathers in a meaningful sense. Curtis’s book is an urgent reminder that dismantling mass incarceration is not enough—we must also heal the damage that has been done to children, families, and communities.”
—Jill McCorkel, author of Breaking Women: Gender, Race, and the New Politics of Imprisonment

“Anna Curtis evocatively demonstrates how cultural tropes concerning blackness, criminality, and violence have cohered into the organizing concept of ‘dangerous masculinity’ within prisons. With a discerning eye, Curtis takes us into the prison to show us the sad and misunderstood consequences this has for fathers and their children.”  
—Timothy Black, author of When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Str

Dangerous Masculinity considers how those within the prison system negotiate their expectations about “real” men and “good” fathers, how prisoners negotiate their relationships with those outside of prison, and in what ways this negotiation reflects their understanding of masculinity.

ANNA CURTIS is an assistant professor of sociology at The State University of New York at Cortland.

Critical Issues in Crime and Society
Putting Their Hands on Race
Irish Immigrant and Southern Black Domestic Workers, 1850-1940
DANIELLE T. PHILLIPS-CUNNINGHAM

“A pioneering comparative analysis of the distinct and overlapping labor and migration histories of Irish immigrant and Black domestic workers, as well as their activist struggles against exploitation and stereotyping. Employing familiar racial formation theory and intersectional feminist theory in complex ways, this interdisciplinary project makes important contributions to whiteness studies, African American Studies, Women’s Studies, and labor history.”
—Beverly Guy-Sheftall, co-author of Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women’s Equality in African American Communities

“Danielle Phillips-Cunningham has produced a remarkable comparative history of Irish and African American domestic workers that illuminates the processes of racialization and points to possibilities for cross-racial political alliances.”
—Premilla Nadasen, author of Household Workers Unite: The Untold Story of African American Women who Built a Movement

On the racially fractious terrain of labor, Black women and Irish immigrant women gathered data, wrote letters and speeches, marched, protested, engaged in private acts of resistance in the workplace, and created women’s institutions and organizations to assert domestic workers’ right to living wages and protection.

DANIELLE PHILLIPS-CUNNINGHAM is an associate professor of multicultural women’s and gender studies at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas.

Medical Entanglements
Rethinking Feminist Debates about Healthcare
KRISTINA GUPTA

“Modern biomedicine presents us with a growing number of socially and ethically troubling situations, where there is always a temptation to seek a ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ solution. In this important book, and with theoretical sophistication and supported by detailed case studies, Gupta shows the most ethical way forward may be acceptance that difficulties are only imperfectly resolvable, entangled as they are in broader systems of injustice. She argues with skill and imagination for a different approach, framed by a different language, to feminist thinking about healthcare.”
—Jackie Leach Scully, co-editor of Feminist Bioethics: At the Center, on the Margins

Using a series of case studies—sex-confirmation surgery, pharmaceutical treatments for sexual dissatisfaction, and weight loss interventions—the book argues that, because of systemic inequality, most mainstream medical interventions will simultaneously reinforce social inequality and alleviate some individual suffering. Thus, Gupta argues that feminist activists and theorists should allow individuals to choose whether to use a particular intervention, while directing their social justice efforts at dismantling systems of oppression and at ensuring that all people, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, class, or ability, have access to the basic resources required to flourish.

KRISTINA GUPTA is an assistant professor of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is co-editor of Queer Feminist Science Studies.
Fight the Tower
Asian American Women Scholars’ Resistance and Renewal in the Academy
EDITED BY KIEU LINH CAROLINE VALVERDE AND WEI MING DARIOITIS

“Fight the Tower is engaging. Readers will immerse themselves in the lives of these authors, will readily find their own lives in these courageous narratives, and will find nurturing and applicable guidance.”
—Yolanda Flores Niemann, co-editor of Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia

“A searing indictment of the oppressive working conditions encountered by Asian American women faculty and graduate students, and an inspiring chronicle of the struggles for liberation.”
—Carmen Gonzalez, co-editor of Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia

Fight the Tower is a continuation of the Fight the Tower movement, which supports women standing up for their rights to claim their earned place in academia and to work for positive change for all within academic institutions.

KIEU LINH CAROLINE VALVERDE is an associate professor of Asian American studies and the founding director of the New Viet Nam Studies Initiative at the University of California, Davis, and author of Transnationalizing Viet Nam: Community, Culture, and Politics in the Diaspora and co-founder of the social justice movement, Fight the Tower.

WEI MING DARIOITIS is an associate professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University. She is co-editor of War Baby/Love Child: Mixed Race Asian American Art.

The Queer Aesthetics of Childhood
Asymmetries of Innocence and the Cultural Politics of Child Development
HANNAH DYER

“The Queer Aesthetics of Childhood makes a necessary and nuanced intervention in contemporary theorizations of the child, balancing the sociopolitical with the material while interrogating the array of affects and artifacts always in dialogue with the child. Working from a vibrant interdisciplinary stance—including biopolitics, psychoanalysis, racial capitalism, and queer theory, Dyer weaves a fresh framework to read the child and, as centrally, to query child development and its attendant affects. Engaging a generative lens of arts and aesthetics—films, contemporary artists and other cultural workers—that provoke audiences to recognize the layered arrangements of power that both surround and mark the child, Dyer’s lyrically crafted book is essential reading.”
—Erica R. Meiners, author of Flaunt It! Queers Organizing for Public Education and Justice, Right to Be Hostile

“Exciting, tender, persuasive, and smart. Dyers’ book is a clarion call to care for the bodies we call children. Let their creativity, strange in all its beauties, tell us how they’re harmed—hurt by norms that foster inequalities. I believe more than ever, thanks to Hannah Dyer, that ‘children’ and ‘aesthetics’ are the most profound pairing for safeguarding pleasure, for all living creatures, amid world trauma.”
—Kathryn Bond Stockton, author of The Queer Child, or Growing Sideways in the Twentieth Century

HANNAH DYER is an assistant professor of child and youth studies at Brock University in Ontario, Canada.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies
Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage
Violence against Women in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
JOANNE PAYTON
FOREWORD BY DEEYAH KHAN

“Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage underlies ambitious narratives regarding the rights of women in marriage and formation of alliance, women offered as gifts to form and continue alliances. This is a rich text that dialogues with a global comparative approach analyzing the giving and receiving of women in various contexts, providing a survey of types of marriages and cultural significance of women as commodity within the lens of marriages and what unions entail.”
—Lina Fruzzetti, Brown University

Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage provides a description of ‘honor’-based violence that focuses upon the structure of the family rather than the perpetrator’s culture. Payton argues that within societies primarily organized by familial and marital connections, women’s ‘honor’ is a form of symbolic capital within a ‘political economy’ in which marriage organizes intergroup connections. Payton explores forms of marriage and their relationship to ‘honor’, sketching changing norms around the familial control of women from agrarian/pastoral roots to the contemporary era.

JOANNE PAYTON has worked with the Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organization since 2005. She also works with the media company Fuuse in London, UK, appearing in the Emmy-award winning film Banaz: A Love Story, which explores an ‘honor’ killing.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Courting Desire
Litigating for Love in North India
RAMA SRINIVASAN

“Courting Desire offers an unusual mix of ethnographic perspectives, exploring the pursuit of love and the critical role played by legal institutions in changing times. Srinivasan presents a rich canvas of messy human realities, while making a persuasive argument for the stable yet transformative value of law.”
—Ann Grodzins Gold, author of Listening to the Heron’s Words: Reimaging Gender and Kinship in North India

“With captivating stories of love and elopement, Rama Srinivasan offers readers a refreshing new view of shifting paradigms on marriage and consent in North India. While elopement challenges both patriarchy and kinship, the courtroom offers young couples a legal validity and a new sense of personhood. This richly woven account mixes the interplay of changing gender roles, political economies, Bollywood films, and the democratic state for a delightful, intimate read into modern India.”
—Erin Patrice Moore, author of Gender, Law, and Resistance in India

Through ethnographic research in courtrooms, community and kinship spaces, Srinivasan outlines the transformations in material culture and political economy that have led to renewed negotiations on the institution of marriage in North India, especially in legal spaces.

RAMA SRINIVASAN holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and currently pens articles on gender and sexuality, politics, cinema and popular culture, law and society, and immigration and diaspora issues. She lives in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts
Transgender Cinema

REBECCA BELL-METEREAU

“Rebecca Bell-Metereau has already written the definitive work on androgyny in cinema, and now she completes the circle with what is unquestionably the paradigmatic work on transgender cinema. In Transgender Cinema, Bell-Metereau not only provides a series of incisive interpretations of important transgender films but also recognizes how these films present new possibilities for organizing our enjoyment.”
—Todd McGowan, author of Only a Joke Can Save Us: A Theory of Comedy

“A scrupulously researched, lucid, major contribution to the study of cinema and gender studies more generally. Timely and both politically and artistically important, it deserves the widest possible readership.”
—James Naremore, author of Charles Burnett: A Cinema of Symbolic Knowledge

Transgender Cinema gives readers the big picture of how trans people have been depicted on screen. Beginning with a history of trans tropes in classic Hollywood cinema, from comic drag scenes in Chaplin's The Masquerader to Garbo's androgynous Queen Christina, and from psycho killer queers to The Rocky Horror Picture Show's outrageous queen, it examines a plethora of trans portrayals that subsequently emerged from varied media outlets.

REBECCA BELL-METEREAU teaches and directs media studies at Texas State University in San Marcos. She is the author of Hollywood Androgyny.

Quick Takes: Movies and Popular Culture

The Visual is Political

Feminist Photography and Counter-Cultural Activity in 1970s Britain

NA'AMA KLORMAN-ERAQI

The Visual is Political examines the growth of feminist photography as it unfolded in Britain during the 1970s and 1980s. This period was marked by instability following the collapse of the welfare state, massive unemployment, race riots, and workers’ strikes. However, this was also a time in which various forms of social activism emerged or solidified, including the women's movement, whose members increasingly turned to photography as a tool for their political activism. Rather than focusing on the aesthetic quality of the images produced, Klorman-Eraqi looks at the application of feminist theory, photojournalism, advertising, photo montage, punk subculture and aesthetics, and politicized street activity to emphasize the statement and challenge that the photographic language of these works posed. She shows both the utilitarian uses of photography in activism, but also how these same photographers went on to be accepted or co-opted into the mainstream art spaces little by little, sometimes with great controversy. The Visual is Political highlights the relevance and impact of an earlier contentious, creative, and politicized moment of feminism and photography as art and activism.

NAAMA KLORMAN-ERAQI is a lecturer in the art history department at Tel Aviv University in Israel.
TV Family Values
Gender, Domestic Labor, and 1980s Sitcoms
ALICE LEPPERT

“The sharp and insightful analysis of 1980s family sitcoms we need! An engaging assessment of TV comedy in a changing culture of gender, work, and home during a transitional decade.”
—Elana Levine, author of Wallowing in Sex: The New Sexual Culture of 1970s American Television

“Insightful, well-argued and carefully researched, TV Family Values gives a rich and multifaceted picture of the social, cultural and political currents at play in 80s sitcoms.”
—Joanne Morreale, author of Advertising and Promotional Culture: Case Histories

During the 1980s, U.S. television experienced a reinvigoration of the family sitcom genre. In TV Family Values, Alice Leppert focuses on the impact the decade’s television shows had on middle class family structure. These sitcoms sought to appeal to upwardly mobile “career women” and were often structured around non-nuclear families and the reorganization of housework. Drawing on Foucauldian and feminist theories, Leppert examines the nature of sitcoms such as Full House, Family Ties, Growing Pains, The Cosby Show, and Who’s the Boss? against the backdrop of a time period generally remembered as socially conservative and obsessed with traditional family values.

ALICE LEPPERT is an assistant professor of media and communication studies at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

Undead Ends
Stories of Apocalypse
S. TRIMBLE

“Undead Ends is a remarkable book—an imaginative, often brilliant, contribution to the long Western genealogies of apocalyptic thinking and to the ways that contemporary insurgent racialized, gendered, anti-colonialist movements have struggled to claim and transform apocalyptic politics and aesthetics.”
—James Berger, author of After the End: Representations of Post-Apocalypse

Undead Ends is about how we imagine humanness and survival in the aftermath of disaster. Framing modern British and American apocalypse films as sites of interpretive struggle, this book asks what, exactly, is ending? Whose dreams of starting over take center stage, and why? And how do these films, sometimes in spite of themselves, make room to dream of new beginnings that don’t just reboot the world we know? S. Trimble argues that contemporary apocalypse films aren’t so much envisioning The End of the world as the end of a particular world; not The End of humanness but, rather, the end of Man. Through readings of The Road, I Am Legend, 28 Days Later, 28 Weeks Later, Children of Men, and Beasts of the Southern Wild, this book demonstrates that popular stories of apocalypse can trouble, rather than reproduce, Man’s story of humanness. With some creative re-reading, they can even unfold towards unexpected futures. Mainstream apocalypse films are, in short, an occasion to imagine a world After Man.

S. TRIMBLE teaches at the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Novel Bodies
Disability and Sexuality in Eighteenth-Century British Literature
JASON S. FARR

Novel Bodies examines the significant role that disability plays in shaping the British literary history of sexuality. Jason S. Farr shows that various eighteenth-century novelists represent disability and sexuality in flexible ways to reconfigure the political and social landscapes of eighteenth-century Britain. In imagining the lived experience of disability as analogous to—and as informed by—queer genders and sexualities, the authors featured in Novel Bodies expose emerging ideas of able-bodiedness and heterosexuality as interconnected systems that sustain dominant models of courtship, reproduction, and degeneracy. Further, they use intersections of disability and queerness to stage an array of contemporaneous debates covering topics as wide-ranging as education, feminism, domesticity, medicine, and plantation life. Farr demonstrates that disabled and queer characters inhabit strict social orders in unconventional ways, opening up new avenues of expression for generations of readers. In doing so, Farr concludes, these works make clear that variable bodies and desires are key for understanding the literary imagination of eighteenth-century Britain.

JASON S. FARR is an assistant professor of English at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Intelligent Souls?
Feminist Orientalism in Eighteenth-Century English Literature
SAMARA ANNE CAHILL

“Samara Anne Cahill has produced a comprehensive study of one of the central tropes in the evolution of feminist orientalism, from the turbulent 1690s to the revolutionary 1790s, with detailed analyses drawing on a variety of discourses, both competing and complementary, from an impressive array of genres and texts.”
—Martine W. Brownley, Emory University

Intelligent Souls? offers a new understanding of Islam in eighteenth-century Britain. Samara Anne Cahill explores two overlapping strands of thinking about women and Islam which produce the phenomenon of “feminist orientalism.” The confluence of these discourses compounded if not wholly produced the stereotype that Islam denied women intelligent souls. Surprisingly, women writers of the period accepted the stereotype, but used it for their own purposes. Rowe, Carter, Lennox, More, and Wollstonecraft, Cahill argues, established common ground with men by leveraging the “otherness” identified with Islam to dispute British culture’s assumption that British women were lacking in intelligence, selfhood, or professional abilities.


Rutgers University Press • Women's Studies SS24
Jane Austen and Comedy
EDITED BY ERIN GOSS

Jane Austen and Comedy takes for granted two related notions. First, Jane Austen’s books are funny; they induce laughter, and that laughter is worth attending to for a variety of reasons. Second, Jane Austen’s books are comedies, understandable both through the generic form that ends in marriage after the potential hilarity of romantic adversity and through a more general promise of wish fulfillment. In bringing together Jane Austen and comedy, which are both often dismissed as superfluous or irrelevant to a contemporary world, this collection of essays directs attention to the ways we laugh, the ways that Austen may make us do so, and the ways that our laughter is conditioned by the form in which Austen writes: comedy. Jane Austen and Comedy invites reflection not only on her inclusion of laughter and humor, the comic, jokes, wit, and all the other topics that can so readily be grouped under the broad umbrella that is comedy, but also on the idea or form of comedy itself, and on the way that this form may govern our thinking about many things outside the realm of Austen’s work.

ERIN GOSS is an associate professor of English at Clemson University in South Carolina. She is the author of Revealing Bodies: Anatomy, Allegory, and the Grounds of Knowledge in the Long Eighteenth Century (Bucknell University Press).

The Printed Reader
Gender, Quixotism, and Textual Bodies in Eighteenth-Century Britain
AMELIA DALE

The Printed Reader explores the transformative power of reading in the eighteenth century, and how this was expressed in the fascination with Don Quixote and in a proliferation of narratives about quixotic readers, readers who attempt to reproduce and embody their readings. Through intersecting readings of quixotic narratives, including work by Charlotte Lennox, Laurence Sterne, George Colman, Richard Graves, and Elizabeth Hamilton, Amelia Dale argues that literature was envisaged as imprinting—most crucially, in gendered terms—the reader’s mind, character, and body. The Printed Reader brings together key debates concerning quixotic narratives, print culture, sensibility, empiricism, book history, and the material text, connecting developments in print technology to gendered conceptualizations of quixotism. Tracing the meanings of quixotic readers’ bodies, The Printed Reader claims the social and political text that is the quixotic reader is structured by the experiential, affective, and sexual resonances of imprinting and impressions.

AMELIA DALE is a lecturer in the School of Languages and Literature at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics in China.
The End of International Adoption?  
An Unraveling Reproductive Market and the Politics of Healthy Babies  
ESTYE FENTON

“Estye Fenton brings us an eagerly awaited examination of the experiences of parents who adopted their children internationally in the last decade. Timely and relevant, Fenton's monograph is a welcome addition to the scholarship on international adoption and contemporary families.”
—Heather Jacobson, author of Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies

Since 2004, the number of international adoptions in the United States has declined by more than seventy percent. In The End of International Adoption? Estye Fenton studies parents in the United States who adopted internationally in the past decade during this shift. Many parents, activists, and scholars have questioned whether the inequality inherent in international adoption renders the entire system suspect. In the face of such concerns, international adoption has not only become more difficult, but also more politically and ethically fraught. The mothers interviewed for this book found themselves navigating contemporary American family life in an unexpected way, caught between the double-bind of work-family life and a new paradigm of thinking about the method—international adoption—that they used to create those families.

ESTYE FENTON is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Mothering from the Field

The Impact of Motherhood on Site-Based Research  
EDITED BY BAHIYYAH MIAULLAH MUHAMMAD AND MÉLANIE-ANGELA NEUILLY

The heated national conversation about gender equality and women in the workforce is something that women in academia have been concerned with and writing about for at least a decade. Overall, the conversation has focused on identifying how women in general and mothers in particular fair in the academy as a whole, as well as offering tips on how to maximize success. Aside from a long-standing field-specific debate in anthropology, rare are the volumes focusing on the particulars of motherhood’s impacts on how scientific research is conducted, particularly when it comes to field research.

Mothering from the Field offers both a mosaic of perspectives from current women scientists’ experiences of conducting field research across a variety of sub-disciplines while raising children, and an analytical framework to understand how we can redefine methodological and theoretical contributions based on mothers’ experiences in order not just to promote healthier, more inclusive, nurturing, and supportive environments in physical, life, and social sciences, but also to revolutionize how we conceptualize research.

BAHIYYAH MIAULLAH MUHAMMAD is an assistant professor in the department of sociology and criminology at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

MÉLANIE-ANGELA NEUILLY is an associate professor in the department of criminal justice and criminology at Washington State University in Pullman.
Touched Bodies
The Performative Turn in Latin American Art
MARA POLGOVSKY EZCURRA

What is the role of pleasure and pain in the politics of art? In Touched Bodies, Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra approaches this question as she examines the flourishing of live and intermedial performance in Latin America during times of authoritarianism and its significance during transitions to democracy. Based on original documents and innovative readings, her book brings politics and ethics to the discussion of artistic developments during the “long 1980s.” She describes the rise of performance art in the context of feminism, HIV-activism, and human right movements, taking a close look at the work of Diamela Eltit and Raúl Zurita from Chile, León Ferrari and Liliana Maresca from Argentina, and Marcos Kurtycz, the No Grupo art collective, and Proceso Pentágono from Mexico. The comparative study of the work of these artists attests to a performative turn in Latin American art during the 1980s that, like photography and film before, recast the artistic field as a whole, changing the ways in which we perceive art and understand its role in society.

MARA POLGOVSKY EZCURRA is a lecturer in contemporary art at Birkbeck, University of London in the United Kingdom. She is coeditor of Sabotage Art: Politics and Iconoclasm in Contemporary Latin America.

Impure Migration
Jews and Sex Work in Golden Age Argentina
MIR YARFITZ

“A tour de force. It transcends conventional accounts of victimized prostitutes and malevolent pimps with an intellectually bold exploration of sexual and racialized public anxieties. An important contribution to the history of international mobility, immigrant sociability, gendered labor, and multi-ethnic cities.”
—José Moya, professor of history, Barnard College

“If you want to read just one of the very many books on Jewish white slavery, this is the one you should choose. Both specialists and the general public will find this volume engaging and insightful.”
—Raanan Rein, vice president, Tel Aviv University

“A fascinating account of Jewish participation in sexual commerce in Buenos Aires…Impure Migration deepens our knowledge of the relation between prostitution and migration.”
—Cristiana Schettini, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) / University of San Martín, Argentina

Impure Migration investigates the period from the 1890s until the 1930s, when prostitution was a legal institution in Argentina. Yarfitz examines how thousands of Eastern European Jewish women and men migrated to Latin America and engaged in organized sex work to escape from the difficult conditions in their home countries.

MIR YARFITZ is an assistant professor in the department of History at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
Reformed American Dreams
Welfare Mothers, Higher Education, and Activism
SHEILA M. KATZ

“Shelia Katz’s study of single women with children on CalWORKS in the San Francisco Bay Area should be read by those who have stereotyped low-income women in need of assistance, who we often gratuitously denigrate. Katz’s interviews demonstrate these women are willing to work and […] seek to advance their fortunes and those of their children by seeking higher education. It is an important, empathic, empowering story.”
—Robert Hauhart, author of Seeking the American Dream

Reformed American Dreams explores the experiences of low-income single mothers who pursued higher education while on welfare after the 1996 welfare reforms. This research occurred in an area where grassroots activism by and for mothers on welfare in higher education was directly able to affect the implementation of public policy. Half of the participants in Sheila M. Katz’s research were activists with the grassroots welfare rights organization, LIFETIME, trying to change welfare policy and to advocate for better access to higher education. Reformed American Dreams takes up their struggle to raise families, attend school, and become student activists, all while trying to escape poverty. Katz highlights mothers’ experiences as they pursued higher education on welfare and became grassroots activists during the Great Recession.

SHEILA M. KATZ is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Houston in Texas. She is a founding board member of the National Center for Student Parent Programs and previously taught at Sonoma State University.
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