March 2019 Reviews

1. The Routledge companion to gender, sex and Latin American culture. ed. by Frederick Luis Aldama. Routledge, 2018. 436p bibl index, 9781138894952 $220.00, 9781315179728 $53.95

Latin America has a rich popular heritage due to a variety of cultures, peoples, and traditions. This volume explores the diversity and complexity of recent popular cultural expressions associated with gender, sex, and ethnicity. The collection includes 36 essays on various topics, including general culture, film, art, photography, sports, dance, and theater. Most of the authors are connected to US academic institutions; notably, they come largely from literature and language backgrounds. The majority of the essays do not cover traditional literary topics, illustrating the recent scholarly shift away from traditional research toward all aspects of Latin American studies by literature and language faculty. Throughout, essays examine the intersectional identities of gender and sexuality and their relationship to aspects of Latin American popular culture. Many of the authors are beginning or mid-career in the field, though there are a few prominent scholars, including David William Foster, Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado, and Ilan Stavans. Though ethnicity references are found in several essays, only three focus specifically on Indigenous and Afro-Latin influences. This collection provides a window into the state of research occurring in the US on Latin American popular culture. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.


Baker (Smith College) examines the history of the youth sex trade in the US, giving careful consideration to the race, gender, and social class of affected youth and to the impacts on policies and practices across time. Through detailed analyses of court cases and development of both responding agencies and government policies, Baker examines the prevalence of common youth sex trade narratives (which primarily focus on white, middle class women) versus the lived realities of youth involved in the US sex trade (varying across race, social class, gender, and sexual identity). Although Baker finds that progress has been made through “collaborative adversarial moments” from treating youth as criminals to empowered advocates for themselves, the author finds that media portrayals continue to play to stereotypes, and government policies tend to treat youth as criminals or victims. This book could be used in the disciplines of history, sociology, political science, education, and media studies. It could be paired with one or more of the documentaries described in the book to help students better understand firsthand experiences of affected youth and the agendas of the developers of each documentary. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.


Postracial Resistance examines how African American women in the US media circuit devise creative ways to resist racist patriarchy in the “Obama era.” Joseph (Univ. of Washington) uses textual analysis and audience research to explore how, based on their positionalities and social contexts, African American women—celebrities, cultural producers, and audiences—engage “strategic ambiguity” (a coded resistance that is non-threatening for dominant white society) as they navigate post-racial American media and society. Candidly, in three distinct sections that each focus on different research
subjects, the book reads like three separate texts with only references to strategic ambiguity as the connecting thread. Moreover, the discursive analysis and the ethnographic research are unconnected to each other, as the African American women that the author researched are not studied in relation to the texts she analyzed. The autonomous nature of the sections can be advantageous, however, as this feature allows individual sections and chapters to be assigned and read independently of each other. Overall, the book is significant in centering the voices and experiences of African American women in media studies and articulating their strategic resistance in mediated spaces where they are minoritized. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.


This book is Perry’s exploration of the multiple forms of domination instituted through patriarchal authority during the age of empire. Using historical examples, narrative vignettes, and meditative interludes, Perry pushes the conventions of academic writing in part to advocate for feminism as critical reading practice rather than doctrine. The book contains three sections. The first examines personhood, sovereignty, and property as heuristics through which we can understand the development of modernity and globalization as constituted through patriarchy and gendered domination. The second section expands this analysis to the contemporary moment, focusing on gender in the postmodern, neoliberal world. The last section presents insurgent possibilities within and around these architectures of domination and advocates for deep “reading” of the world through a feminist praxis. These sections are punctuated by interludes, the first about the cultural revolution in the US in the mid-20th century, and the second about the trope of the witch. Together, these sections invite the reader to consider patriarchy not as a parallel structure repeating itself across cultures but rather an iterative and changeable force constituted through its interactions with race, empire, geographic location, and other intersections. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.


Gender and sexuality have been central to Asian American identity politics since the early 1970s. Wu (gender studies, Indiana Univ.) employs the trope of “sticky rice”—which in gay Asian American culture means Asian American men who desire other Asian American men—to explore this intraracial desire, and she also uses the underlying critical vision to underscore a new coalitional politics for the ethnic group. Wu emphasizes such a desire as intervention in assimilationist tendencies and healing differences among diverse Asian groups. She historicizes such relationships against the background of Chinese exclusion and US militarism in Asia. She argues that Asia has been (re)divided into friendly and enemy forces, and that Asian American men have been strategically queer in such changing contexts. In that sense, Wu moves beyond intraracial desire to point out the epistemological and ontological implications of the homosocial, homoerotic, and homosexual connections among Asian American men. Investigating the desire and the relationship both literally and metaphorically in canonical and non-canonical texts, Wu concludes that such coalitional politics will have an impact on the theory and practice of Asian American studies, queer studies, and critical race studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

This excellent study serves three purposes: it surveys the core methodologies used in existing queer theologies (and queer theory); it provides a deep engagement with the theology of the late Marcella Althaus-Reid (1952–2009); and it highlights examples of theology that come closer to being queer than most explicitly queer theological work. For the purposes of this work, Tonstad (systematic theology, Yale Divinity School) considers queer theology to include LGBT theologies of the last 50 years. Tonstad’s premise is that most queer theology is focused more on queer people than on being a Christian theology that takes queer theory seriously. Tonstad takes issue with the apologetic approach of most LGBTQIA+ theology, which often begins with questioning the place of queer people within Christianity. Through analyzing Althaus-Reid and summarizing key works of queer theory, Tonstad reveals ways in which existing queer theology should be questioned. Tonstad challenges the reader in a way that will be accessible to nonspecialists but also offers compelling arguments that serious scholars will appreciate.

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

7. Between families and Frankenstein: the politics of egg donation in the United States. Heidt-Forsythe, Erin. California, 2018. 280p bibl index, 9780520298187 $85.00, 9780520298194 $29.95, 9780520970434 $29.95

The title of this volume reflects the various extreme ways egg donation is framed in both popular media and policy discourse. Advocates of egg donation for reproductive purposes speak of “gifts” given by altruistic young (white) women to complete the families of (mostly heterosexual, relatively privileged) couples, while opponents of egg donation for research purposes (such as obtaining stem cell lines) warn of evil scientists intending to clone Frankensteinian monsters. Heidt-Forsythe (women's and gender studies, Penn State Univ.) uses case studies of existing and proposed legislation regarding egg donation in Arizona, California, Louisiana, and New York to illustrate the complex and often contradictory narratives of politicians, moralists, physicians, researchers, and other stakeholders. She highlights the use and appropriation of feminist rhetoric and the race- and class-inflected subtexts of the debates. Readers interested in the practice of egg donation and the experiences of the women involved will have to look elsewhere; the author focuses almost exclusively on how legislators and others have framed policy discussions on the subject. But the book is well written and engaging, skillfully demonstrating that context is crucial when studying complex and contentious socio-technological phenomena. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, and professionals.


Shonda Rhimes has been an important figure in American television for more than a decade, and her programming warrants this collection of essays edited by Rachel Alicia Griffin (Univ. of Utah) and Michaela D. E. Meyer (Christopher Newport Univ.). Producing successful series such as Grey’s Anatomy, Scandal, How to Get Away with Murder, and others, Rhimes’s weekly shows have some of the highest network rankings in television and millions of viewers. Cultural, political, and societal issues are a part of her television storylines, and the essays in Shondaland cover her role as a black woman in television, her style of production and her success, her audiences, and 21st-century media. Topics covered include race and multiculturalism, “interracial intimacies,” LGBTQ issues, music soundtracks, social television, and fan responses on Twitter, with each essay focusing on her various shows as examples. This volume delivers
an insightful analysis of looking at the creation of popular television shows and how much one woman has contributed to contemporary television. This collection will interest fans and researchers of Rhimes, media, and African American and women’s studies. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.

9. **Brown beauty : color, sex, and race from the Harlem Renaissance to World War II.** Haidarali, Laila. New York University, 2018. 335p bibl index, 9781479875108 $99.00, 9781479802081 $35.00, 9781479865499

Scholarly discussions of the Harlem Renaissance—New Negro era usually focus on men. In Brown Beauty, Laila Haidarali (African American and women’s history, Univ. of Essex, UK) widens the lens to examine women and the development of a race conscious ideal of “brown-skin” beauty. The New Negro movement, most closely associated with Alain Locke, can be seen in part as a reflection of the mass migration of African Americans from the south to the north. The emergence of a substantial class of blacks in an urban industrial environment marked a significant departure from the rural agrarian past and the “Old Negro,” who had been represented by racist stereotypes of happy “Sambos,” “Mammies,” and "Aunt Jemimas.” As African Americans rejected the older images, they asserted instead images of proud and beautiful, cultured, upwardly mobile brown people. The author traces the ideal of brown feminine beauty in advertisements, literature, baby dolls, photography, and other forms of mass consumer culture. The material on German-born artist Rinold Reiss is especially illuminating. Haidarali offers a nuanced view of how the category brown, while “abstract, inexact and malleable” (from the introduction), was intended as a positive protest against the prevailing racism of the time. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All academic levels.


These thoughtful, interesting essays examine texts that explore the figure of the working woman during an era of enormous social transformation in the US. Arranged in four sections ("Naturalism and the Working Woman," "The 'New Woman,'" "Race, Sex, and Class," and "Working Women in Drama and Film"), the eight essays scrutinize work from a range of authors, including William Dean Howells, Henry James, Theodore Dreiser, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Ellen Glasgow, Ann Petry, and Rachel Crothers. The book concludes with an examination of career women in 1940s cinema. A helpful introduction covering women’s rapidly changing roles in society during this era will be particularly helpful for readers unfamiliar with the period. Despite the date range expressed in the title, nearly all these essays focus on 20th-century works—although these texts clearly wrestle with the 19th-century legacy of realism and naturalism. Readers interested in feminist and historical approaches to literature will profit most from this book, and it will serve as a helpful supplement to more broad-based studies of literature from the period. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

11. **The blues muse : race, gender, and musical celebrity in American poetry.** Rutter, Emily Ruth. Alabama, 2018. 215p bibl index, 9780817319946 $49.95, 9780817391973 $49.95

Writing from a feminist, multicultural perspective, Rutter (English, Ball State Univ.) builds on a wealth of literary studies about jazz and poetry, work by the likes of Sascha Feinstein, David Yaffe, and Emily Lordi. In addition to her knowledge of contemporary work, Rutter’s awareness extends back to Samuel Charters’s The Poetry of the Blues (1963) and Bright Moments, ed. by Jim Stephens (1980), a collection of jazz poetry. Rutter focuses on blues masters and how they have inspired poets, starting in the Harlem Renaissance and continuing through the Black Arts movement and into the present day. Principal poets
discussed include Langston Hughes, Sterling A. Brown, Robert Hayden, Amiri Baraka, Jayne Cortez, and Rita Dove—all of whom invoke, as muses, the likes of Billie Holiday, Robert Johnson, Leadbelly, and Ma Rainey. Performers of the blues have been engaged in social protest and resistance, and the poets inspired by blues are engaged in the same struggle, the same protest. Though rooted in popular culture, this treatment is complex as it considers gender, race, "musical celebrity," and the aesthetics of song and poetry. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

In this highly accessible historical narrative, Gilles (Grand Valley State Univ.) argues that the first cohort of American women bicycle racers took part in a transformative experience for women in general at the turn of the 20th century. These women—many of whom were from the immigrant working class—pushed the boundaries of Victorian standards for American womanhood. They wore bloomers, even mere tights, when racing; they were athletic, strong, and competitive. They were, as Gilles points out, the embodiment of the "new woman." While their reign was short-lived—from 1895 to 1902—at their height, women such as Tillie Anderson (nicknamed the “Terrible Swede”), Dottie Farnsworth, and Lizzie Glaw drew hundreds of spectators to races which lasted several days and generated much press. Simultaneously, they had their critics, those who saw women’s competitiveness as, well, "unwomanly." And as the bicycle craze waned in the US, so too did the interest in women’s bicycle racing. In focusing on these pioneers of American women’s athleticism, Gilles has provided a much needed examination of a little-known aspect of American women’s history in general. Summing Up: Recommended. Undergraduates and general readers.

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This book is required reading for anyone interested in the evolution of Congress and how members perceive their roles as representatives in a polarized era. The qualitative methodology helps to provide a holistic understanding of how congresswomen navigate and make a difference in a male-dominated institution. Through interviews with more than 75 percent of the women who served in the 114th Congress (2015–17), the authors successfully give voice to the multifaceted identities of congresswomen. While these qualitative data bring the experiences and perceptions of congresswomen to life, the conclusions emerge from a deep understanding of scholarship on women and politics. By grounding the investigation in existing scholarship, the authors are able to confirm and challenge findings from past research and open new avenues of inquiry. The consistent refrain in the interviews about the intersection of gender, race, class, and partisan identities urges readers to look beyond women as a monolithic group to understand the contribution their presence makes in Congress, and encourages researchers to more fully examine the experiences of women of color and Republican women in Congress. Thus, this study points the way forward for students and scholars of gender and politics. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

This compelling book details the emergence of a new feminist ideal that is less concerned with social justice than with individual women’s ability to balance home and work. This scathing critique of what Rottenberg (Univ. of London, UK) terms neoliberal feminism is presented through careful analyses of contemporary manifestos, such as Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean In (CH, Dec’13, 51-2183), Ann-Marie Slaughter’s Unfinished Business (Random House, 2016), Megyn Kelly’s Settle for More (Harper Luxe, 2016), and Ivanka Trump’s Women Who Work (Portfolio, 2017). To analyze these texts, Rottenberg draws on the theoretical work of Wendy Brown and others to frame neoliberalism as not only a set of economic practices but also a recasting of humans as “capital enhancing subjects.” From this perspective, Rottenberg argues that the new feminist ideal of succeeding at both high-powered employment and intensive mothering serves the free market more than it serves women. Rather than empowering women as a group, neoliberal feminism legitimates the privatization of caring work and erases the economic inequalities that make a felicitous work-family balance impossible for most women. In this accessible, fascinating book, Rottenberg brilliantly captures the contemporary discursive politics of feminism. This text should be widely read. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


In his novel approach to examining birth control, MacNamara (history, Texas A & M Univ.) is quite successful in his attempts to bridge the gap between demographic and narrative histories of the topic. He focuses on why Americans chose to adopt methods to control fertility during the first half of the 20th century but also includes considerable information regarding the history of humans’ attempts to prevent pregnancy, dating from antiquity to the present. While not designated as such, the text falls into three parts. Chapter 1 introduces the topic, providing an overview of birth control’s early history and discussion regarding historians and gender, demographers and modernization, and the theory and methods MacNamara used in his study. Due to MacNamara’s extensive research into both primary and secondary sources, the next five chapters provide strong evidence for how modernization in American society affected men and women’s views and their access to contraceptive methods. Chapter 7 offers a conclusion and an epilogue with analysis and projections regarding global fertility and demographic trends and attitudes. The book also contains an appendix with detailed information and a bibliography that should be useful to scholars. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.

4. *Queer people of color : connected but not comfortable*. by Angelique Harris, Juan Battle, and Antonio (Jay) Pastrana Jr. First Forum Press, 2018. 145p bibl index, 9781626377158 $75.00, 9781626377837 $75.00

The 2010 Social Justice Sexuality Project (SJS) surveyed more than 5,000 queer black, Latinx, and Asian Pacific Islander Americans, collecting data on social and demographic characteristics. This volume reports survey findings (sorted by gender and ethnicity) related to sociopolitical (civic, political, social) involvement: i.e., the degree to which respondents participate in majority (public) organizations and events, in queer organizations and events, and in ethnic organizations and events. Chapters offer pertinent literature reviews and report survey results, including differences and similarities among the three ethnic groups and between women and men. Respondents indicated that both sexual orientation and ethnic status are significant components of their personal identity, with more citing sexual
orientation. In general, respondent claims of connection to queer communities, and to some extent their degree of “outness” with family and friends, more than factors of age, income, or education, correlated with higher sociopolitical involvement, which perhaps is self-evident. Level of comfort within ethnic and queer communities variously correlated with sociopolitical involvement. The authors thus advocate cultivating greater opportunities to connect with queer communities to promote minority sociopolitical involvement. The SJS data set has been shared and is available online (http://socialjusticesexuality.com/) for supplementary analysis. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty, professionals.


Yarrow (senior fellow, Progressive Policy Institute) gives voice to the nearly 25 million men who are on what he considers “the sidelines of America,” missing from much of mainstream daily life in their communities. Who these men are, how this happened, and what can be done to change it are the focal points of this timely, well-written, thoroughly researched exposé. Through a variety of methods—e.g., comments posted on an interactive website; in-person/telephone/online interviews with men of all races/ethnicities, social classes, and ages and with women and parents of young men; discussions with myriad professionals, practitioners, scholars, and advocates; and content analysis of media reports and historical works—Yarrow extends analysis of this phenomenon beyond traditional “sidelined” men (i.e., incarcerated African American men and un/underemployed white working-class men) to men of all backgrounds who find themselves out of the mainstream. He explores the intersection of culture, economics, politics, and human agency in this process to paint a more nuanced and sophisticated portrait of these men and the consequences their situation poses for the future of dating, marriage, fatherhood, health, work, and civic and community life. A must for those interested in gender or masculinity studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

6. Queer nuns: religion, activism, and serious parody. Wilcox, Melissa M. New York University, 2018. 288p bibl index, 9781479864133 $89.00, 9781479820368 $30.00, 9781479871339

Wilcox (religious studies, Univ. of California, Riverside) has a sterling record of scholarship on queer theory in religion. Here she offers a history and critical assessment of the work of LGBTQ activists who consider themselves nuns: a contemporary community of self-styled nuns who are largely cisgender white men. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SPI) began in California in 1976 and now has centers in cities around the world. Combining camp, cheerfulness, and anger, SPI performs what it calls serious parody, donning dress associated with Roman Catholic nuns and working on behalf of marginalized communities. Wilcox did almost five years of research with SPI and in archives of GLBTQ history. Readers benefit from not only the author’s extensive field work but also her commitment to critical theory and ability to see power dynamics: e.g., she points out that though SPI advocates for transgender rights, transgender people struggle to find space within SPI and that many SPI "sisters" are affluent and privileged compared to the queer people of color with whom they interact. SPI's subversive parodies of Vatican power politics reveal injustices LGBTQ communities suffer at the hands of dominant religious groups, but the men can only do so much to overcome structural power dynamics within a complicated landscape of gender politics. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

It would be difficult to imagine a recent book whose methodology presents a more cogent argument for the importance of studying the Greek and Roman classics and their relevance to the modern digital environment. Zuckerberg’s broad focus is on how online, far-right, anti-feminist groups use writings from the classical past—through a selective process that ignores context and academic analysis—to bolster misogynist views and serve as guides for the struggle against the gynarchic ideas putatively coursing through modernity. Specifically, the author closely analyzes how the Red Pill community (on Reddit) has appropriated aspects of Stoicism to give an intellectual veneer to the idea that only males can make rational (read: unemotional) decisions. With respect to the online PUA (Pick Up Artists) community, the author expertly demonstrates how these men—relying on the Ars Amatoria—use Ovid’s words (sadly, but undeniably correctly) to justify ignoring women’s wishes while violating their bodies. What clearly emerges is the similar viewpoint of both misogynist groups: women are perceived as timelessly irrational, seductive, manipulative creatures desperately in need—as much then as now—of strict male control. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

8. Others’ milk: the potential of exceptional breastfeeding. Wilson, Kristin J. Rutgers, 2018. 285p bibl index, 9780813593845 $99.95, 9780813593838 $27.95, 9780813593852 $27.95

Readers have doubtless heard the exhortation that “breast is best” when it comes to the feeding of infants. Wilson (anthropology, Cabrillo College) complicates this notion in her study of “exceptional” breastfeeding. This practice is elusively defined by Wilson as child-feeding practices that “push the boundaries” (p. 5) and go beyond our expectations of what is assumed to be normative breastfeeding of infants by their birth mothers. Such a broadly defined phenomenon could be more focused; Wilson therefore includes induced lactation by people of all genders, use of a supplemental nursing system (SNS) to simulate breastfeeding, chestfeeding by trans men, co-nursing couples, and extended breastfeeding past the age of five. Wilson explores how individuals attempt to meet the nutritional and emotional needs of their and others’ children, create new lines of kinship and affective ties, and face stigma and resistance from family members, social workers, and society at large. This title complements other studies of natural parenting, such as Chris Bobel’s The Paradox of Natural Mothering (CH, Sep’02, 40-0606) and Jennifer Reich’s Calling the Shots (2016), and would work well in advanced undergraduate or graduate courses on parenting or family. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduate and graduate students.

9. Troubled memories: iconic Mexican women and the traps of representation. Estrada, Oswaldo. SUNY Press, 2018. 244p bibl index, 9781438471891 $90.00, 9781438471914

In this analysis of novels, short stories, essays, plays, and chronicles, Estrada (Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) takes readers on a journey through Mexican history and culture, highlighting the mythifying and problematic representations of iconic Mexican women: specifically, Doña Marina/Malinche, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Leona Vicario, the soldaderas of the Mexican Revolution, and Frida Kahlo (treated in the epilogue). Estrada explains how, as representatives of a system of signs and symbols, each woman embodied a different period of Mexican history—the conquest, the colonial period, independence, the Mexican Revolution, and the post-revolutionary era. The author demonstrates how these prominent cultural icons’ significance and influence has evolved over time and gained new meaning. In particular, Estrada engages in a complex discussion of how these women have been transformed into “objects of consumerism” in neoliberal Mexico. The problematic gender representations Estrada presents
demonstrate how these iconic women oftentimes fall victim to misinterpretation, exoticism, and what he calls "historical invisibility." This book is indispensable for scholars of Mexican literature, in particular those focusing on women and gender studies. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

194p bibl index, 9780813586786 $99.95, 9780813586779 $27.95, 9780813591315 $27.95
Rachel Allison’s tightly argued first book offers an ethnographic sociology of Chicago’s Momentum, a professional women’s soccer team that encountered challenges emblematic of women’s sports generally in the US. Allison (Mississippi State Univ.) addresses these challenges in chapters on sexuality and gender in the history of sports, which continue to be segregated by sex. The text covers the debate over whether women’s soccer should be seen as a business project, like men’s professional teams, or as a social cause that offers role models for young girls. Also discussed are the challenges of building and maintaining a fan base, which involves both media and financial sponsorship—and the agonistic politics of media imagery, which tends to promote images of heterosexual, white, “nice girl” athletes and to exclude women of color, lesbians, and others who fail to fit this mold. The “center” Allison “kicks” or tries to decenter refers to the domination of male athletes and men’s sports in US sports culture, which privileges men’s sports in terms of corporate funding, television and media coverage, and resources. Allison convincingly demonstrates the systematic marginalization of women’s athletics and athletes, who nonetheless challenge the inequalities they routinely face.

11. A History of early modern women’s writing. ed. by Patricia Phillipy. Cambridge, 2018. 441p bibl index, 9781107137066 $135.00, 9781108642279 $108.00
An inclusive study of women’s writing in the early modern period, this collection is an important addition to the literature. Focusing on writers from the Tudor era through the Restoration, the book covers critical approaches and methodologies used in scholarship from the beginning of the turn to women’s writing to the present day. The inclusive approach is helpful in that it points to interesting intersections and to authors and genres of which readers may not be aware. The collection goes beyond the familiar topics of poetry and plays to include histories, autobiography, medical recipes, and funeral monuments and epitaphs. In addition, major authors, including Aphra Behn, Aemilia Lanyer, Katherine Philips, and Mary Wroth, are discussed alongside less-studied writers. The scholarship and insights in the book push scholarship into new avenues while providing a necessary overview of this continuously growing field of study. Summing Up: Essential. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

12. Replotting marriage in nineteenth-century British literature. ed. by Jill Galvan and Elsie Michie. Ohio State, 2018. 269p bibl index, 9780814213681 $74.95, 9780814276235 $19.95
Galvan (Ohio State) and Michie (Louisiana State) divide this collection into sections devoted to transforming the marriage plot, cultural contexts, and "beyond coupling." Taken together, the ten essays convey a sense of the 19th century's morally conservative fiction and its blithe endings and raise questions about the logic of separate gender spheres and the resistance that arose. How did fiction diversify approaches to wedlock? In 1957, Ian Watt published his germinative The Rise of the Novel, which emphasized that the individual was central to the form. The present volume modifies that view by looking at the novel in the context of 19th-century concerns: crime, anthropology, education, evolution,
and national identity. The collection argues that reexamining the role of the marriage plot in these contexts attunes one to deeper narrative meanings. The last section focuses on Dickens, especially Our Mutual Friend, who supplements the marriage narrative with a multiplicity of additional purposes. Standing behind many of these essays is Eve Sedgwick’s groundbreaking Between Men (CH, Oct’85) and Sharon Marcus’s Between Women (CH, Sep’07, 45-0572), a similarly thoughtful approach to same-sex eroticism. This challenging collection offers refreshing angles on the Victorian period. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

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Well-published scholar of sociology and gender Sally Hines (Univ. of Leeds) offers a unique introductory text to the field of gender studies and some of its central concerns. While contemporary theory might simply answer the title’s question with a succinct and resounding “yes,” the scrapbook or zine-inspired layout invites readers to explore the question through a spectrum of disciplinary approaches. The text is presented as a primer: with many eye-catching images, differing font sizes highlighting key concepts, and coverage of current media events, it is well crafted to appeal to audiences new to addressing questions of gender diversity and fluidity. While not offering a novel theoretical or empirical contribution, the text presents an overview of the way in which political theory, feminist theory, psychology, science, arts, and media have contributed to contemporary understandings of gender around the world, from ancient Greece to contemporary China. By moving across history and geography, Hines reinforces the concept that gender is always contextual. Is Gender Fluid? would be a useful conversation starter in the introductory gender studies classroom, not only for the content but in the ease of pulling out key concepts, as supported by alternating fonts and broken-up blocks of text. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and general readers.


In A Girl Stands at the Door, Devlin (Rutgers Univ.) makes an important contribution to understanding the desegregation of the American school system in the era of the Civil Rights Movement. She closely examines the role African American girls and young women played in the desegregation of America’s public schools from the 1940s to the 1960s. Included are several of the most significant cases from that era, such as Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, Webb v. District No. 90, Briggs v. Elliott, and, of course, Brown v. Board of Education, pointing out that a disproportionate number of the plaintiffs in the early desegregation lawsuits, youngsters who testified in court and were the among the first to integrate previously all-white schools, were female. Devlin explores the various motives that caused these young women to take up the cause, including their unique sense of responsibility within the civil rights movement. The book is thoroughly researched, and Devlin is to be applauded for her extensive use of interviews with various well-known and not-so-well-known former child plaintiffs and “firsts.” Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

At the outset of this book, Melzer (Albion College) asserts that so much of men's identity as "men" is tied to their ability to perform—be it sexually, bodily, or economically. But what happens to those men who do not live up to the masculine ideal, especially because of physical, social, and structural changes beyond their control? What do men do when they fail to perform gender appropriately? To explore such questions, Melzer employed a multi-method ethnographic approach consisting of participant observation, interviews, and analysis of blogs and documents among members of a fight club, a sexual improvement club, involuntarily unemployed men, and stay-at-home dads. He identified four responses to body and breadwinning failure: men internalize their failure, attempt to repair their failure, compensate for the failure, or reject and redefine what it means to be a man. This last reaction (i.e., the possible wholesale rejection and/or redefinition of masculinity) particularly interests the author, who predicts that the pace and prospects for continued change will be fueled by such factors as increased liberalism among young people, economic stagnation, work-family legal changes, and activism among feminist change agents. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


She Preached the Word provides a detailed study of current attitudes in the US regarding the ordination of women in religious bodies. Using a variety of interview techniques, Knoll (Centre College) asks two key questions: What explains support for or against women serving as principal congregational leaders? What effects do female clergy and congregational policies have on members of their congregations? Biblical and theological assumptions are relevant considerations, but the authors make no attempt to resolve these differences. In the latter part of the 20th century, the number of female clergy and of church bodies allowing ordination of women increased dramatically in the US. Citing the value from these advances—for example, the positive impact of female leaders as role models—Knoll presents answers to questions posed in surveys in the hope of fostering increased discussion of women’s ordination and overcoming gaps in opportunities for women to serve and in areas of financial support and primary leadership of congregations. This book’s conclusions are important for all who care about gender equity in life and religion in the US. Summing Up: Recommended. Professionals and general readers.

5. Jewish radical feminism: voices from the women's liberation movement. Antler, Joyce. New York University, 2018. 453p index, 9780814707630 $35.00, 9780814707647

Providing more than 40 compelling personal narratives based on oral interviews and setting them in historical context, Antler (Brandeis Univ.) documents the instrumental presence of (mostly Ashkenazic, privileged) Jewish women (born 1936–55) in second-wave feminism (late 1960s to mid-1980s). Interviewees range from early radical feminists who ignored or suppressed Jewish identity to focus on universal sisterhood in collectives in Chicago, Boston, and New York to women who—increasingly challenged by leftist groups that excluded Jews from their intersectional focus on race, class, gender, sexuality, and anti-Zionism—confronted and sometimes reclaimed their Jewish identities. Stimuli for social and political action included parents’ ideologies, strong female exemplars, Jewish prophetic imperatives, the Shoah, and reactions to anti-Semitism. Among the voices are Shulamith Firestone (The Dialectic of Sex, CH, Nov’71), the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective (Our Bodies, Ourselves, 1971),
Alix Kate Shulman (Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen, 1972), Susan Brownmiller (Against Our Will, CH, Feb’76), Letty Cottin Pogrebin (a founding editor of Ms.), and Judith Plaskow (Standing Again at Sinai, 1990). Antler’s work makes visible Jewish feminists contributions to Jewish history and women’s history; the interviews also served to make some of the participants' Jewish identity more visible to themselves. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

6. The gender legacy of the Mao era: women's life stories in contemporary China. Huang, Xin. SUNY Press, 2018. 278p bibl index, 9781438470610 $90.00, 9781438470627
Huang (women’s and gender studies, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) investigates “the legacy of the gender project of the Mao era in contemporary China” through the experiences of four women that Huang interviewed who vary in age and occupation. This multifaceted work tackles gender through an intersectional frame that enriches gender studies by complicating conceptions of gender and language over time. Each individual’s history builds on Huang’s introduction by familiarizing the reader with nuances of class, sexuality, and region, all of which coalesce into a rich narrative that helps readers better understand gender in contemporary China. The histories are thick and engrossing; Huang contextualizes the major themes in each with introductory paragraphs on topics such as class or the urban-rural divide to situate each narrative. The book’s supplemental materials include an appendix that lists the original project’s 15 participants with notes about which of them are included in this book, a rich glossary of terms, endnotes, and a bibliography that will guide newer readers of women’s and gender studies through the nuances of this work. This is an important volume for advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

7. The physics of possibility: Victorian fiction, science, and gender. Tondre, Michael. Virginia, 2018. 230p bibl index, 9780813941455 $45.00, 9780813941462 $45.00
Much has been written about the influence of 19th-century biological science on the evolution of the British novel. The role of the physical sciences in Victorian literary history is also coming increasingly into focus. Tondre (English, Stony Brook Univ.) argues for the ways that developments in mathematics and physics were intricately connected not only to work of Darwin and others’ thinking through variation and natural selection, but also to formal experiments, particularly in relation to time, in Victorian literature. Heavily researched and referenced, Tondre’s book attempts to revise our understanding of both the history of modernist physics and the work of some of the most well-known Victorian authors. Relatively concise, the book at times seems to raise possibilities rather than answer questions, which makes for provocative reading and suggests avenues for further study. Despite the sophistication of the argument and the extensive theoretical references, the book’s fresh insights into Dickens, Eliot, and other oft-studied authors make it appropriate for most college and university libraries where English is studied. The index and copious bibliography would also make valuable tools for students studying Victorian literature and/or the history of science. Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.

Smith (Temple Univ.) charts the history of assertive and heroic female characters, providing deft summations of stories and trends. By situating these heroines in their historical moments from Colonial
wars and the Civil Wars to the expanding frontier and urban life, she demonstrates how ideologies of US independence and gender norms informed iterations of this heroine. In the Colonial era, the action-adventure heroine enacts a version of the captivity narrative in which she affects her own release, whereas in late-19th-century texts the female detective conquers criminals with her wits and her gun. Although the author draws heavily on other critical readings of the texts, she succeeds in weaving together evidence of the persistence of the action-adventure heroine. Included in the discussion are texts by Herman Mann and C. E. Grice and the anonymous texts The Female Marine, Constantius and Pulchera, and The Female Warrior. Chapters on Catharine Maria Sedgwick, E. D. E. N. Southworth, Edward Wheeler, and Albert Aiken allow Smith to deepen analysis of subverted gender norms, cross-dressing, and masculine women. This accessible volume will interest students of gender studies and popular culture as well as students of American literature. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower- and upper-division undergraduates; graduate students.


There is perhaps no more seminal or controversial event in the 20th century than the Great War. Historians are still trying to understand its origins, conduct, participant experiences, and consequences. Complicating their efforts is the “canon of Great War literature” with its predominant themes of incompetence, loss, and privilege. Fell (Univ. of Leeds) has written a wonderfully nuanced and balanced study of how women conceptualized their roles in this conflict. Using both archival and printed primary sources—as well as a host of contemporary newspapers and journals—Fell examines how women in Britain and France used their experiences—nurses, resistance networkers, spies, members of the British auxiliary corps—to claim veteran status with its attendant political, economic, and social advantages. She breaks many of the “canon’s” established molds to present a work of refreshing historicism: the author’s subjects are real people with their own motivations. Not all were feminists; some became pacifists, and others remained ardent conservative nationalists. Fell’s final chapter, which examines the status of women wartime industrial activists, considers the limits of cultural appropriation. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.

December 2018 Reviews

1. Familiar perversions: the racial, sexual, and economic politics of LGBT families. Montegary, Liz. Rutgers, 2018. 262p bibl index, 9780813591360 $99.95, 9780813591353 $26.95, 9780813591377 $26.95

Montegary (Stony Brook) examines the politics of LGBTQ families in the US through the themes of anxiety, visibility, equality, and vitality, as she simultaneously compiles a history of these families. This book challenges several myths in the public imagination about the LGBTQ community, such as the myth of affluence. The conclusions solidify her project. “My hope has been to sharpen our understanding of the familial methods of social control currently at work and, in doing so, to lay the analytic groundwork needed for building broader and more just grassroots movements…. I approached the rise and recent success of family equality advocacy as conditioned by and constitutive of the neoliberal reconfiguration of U.S. racial and sexual politics.” Montegary explores the intersections of LGBTQ families and tourism, the financial services industry, and the court battles on which mainstream LGBTQ organizations staked their movement. Deeply researched, Montegary's contextualization of terms like “homonormativity,” “homonationalism,” and “chosen families,” which underpin discussions of LGBTQ politics and family life,
will be essential guideposts for readers. This is an indispensable text for all libraries. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

2. The trans generation: how trans kids (and their parents) are creating a gender revolution. Travers, Ann. New York University, 2018. 263p bibl index, 9781479885794 $25.00, 9781479879939

Whether due to a general lack of understanding or consistent misinterpretations of definitions, gender and identity can be challenging topics for many individuals. Travers (Simon Fraser Univ.) helps combat this confusion by exploring aspects of gender and identity research that are often perplexing for students. Travers presents an innovative exploration of the experiences of transgender children, offering concrete definitions of terminology and fresh approaches to discussing gender, sex, and identity. To some, these definitions and explanations might seem inconsequential, but they can be invaluable to those less informed about gender research. The text goes beyond simply discussing issues related to gender and children by listing resources for children, parents, lawmakers, and educators as well as providing policy recommendations for healthcare and education professionals. The book contains a complete list of references and notes for further details on claims and statements made throughout the text. Also included are a glossary, comprehensive index, and multiple appendixes that provide excellent source material for research on gender. This illuminating text will be an appreciated addition to any library collection, especially those supporting sociology, psychology, gender studies, or criminology and criminal justice programs. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

3. Trans kids: being gendered in the twenty-first century. Meadow, Tey. California, 2018. 300p bibl index, 9780520275034 $85.00, 9780520275041 $29.95, 9780520964167 $29.95

Meadows (sociology, Harvard Univ.) offers a terrific, timely book about children, parents, and their ties to, and struggles with, the concept of gender. Informed by ethnography, ethnomethodology, interviews, and participant observation, Meadows portrays gender as an interactional achievement and as an identity rooted in relationships as well as one constituted by paradox as it necessitates constant negotiation while being perceived as an “enduring feature” of self (p. 52). Specifically, Meadows shows how the bodies of trans and gender nonconforming youth serve as sites of contestation; the ways these youth manage appearance, stigma, disclosure, and the persistent scrutiny of others; and how these youth live with limited agency, unable to offer consent in formative contexts (e.g., familial, educational, medical). Meadows tells the stories of parents too: trying to determine whether a child’s gendered transgression is an “isolated incident” or something more; dealing with hostile responses from their communities; serving, often unwittingly, as transgender advocates and activists; and fearing mistakes with accommodating a child’s needs and desires. Meadows is a superb scholar and storyteller and, with this work, makes a critical contribution to family and gender studies. Everyone should read this book. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

4. Being Muslim: a cultural history of women of color in American Islam. Chan-Malik, Sylvia. New York University, 2018. 275p bibl index, 9781479850600 $89.00, 9781479823420 $29.00, 9781479881550

This is a compelling, comprehensive, well-researched yet intimate exploration of intersectionality in the lives of African American Muslim women. Readers make an excursion through lives and contexts, from the beginning of the 20th century into the 21st. Chan-Malik (American studies, women and gender studies, Rutgers Univ.) demonstrates skills beyond the ordinary as she leaves little to the imagination regarding women’s reasons for choosing Islam as a faith center and its relationship to homemaking, careers, and husbands. These areas are contextualized with the background of stereotypes of black
women and men. Chan-Malik brings back to life the little-known biography of Dakota Staton and the sometimes misinterpreted life of Betty Shabazz as well as the first African American Muslim women of the Ahmadiyya Mission. It is clear that Chan-Malik consulted every form of literature available on women engaging Islam. She challenges pervasive notions about who is Muslim and who is not and the wearing of a veil; she also gives readers a glimpse into how black life disrupts prevailing notions of race, ethnicity, gender, and class. Chan-Malik has interrupted the stream of community biographies told through a male lens. An important book. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

5. Researching sex and sexualities. ed. by Charlotte Morris et al. Zed Books, 2018. 375p bibl index, 9781786999320 $95.00, 9781786993199 $29.95, 9781786993229

Sex and sexuality are topics that provoke both interest and censure. This book collects writings that address some areas of sex and sexuality society has seen as difficult to investigate. Since the 18 contributors hail from different parts of the world, the book is cross-cultural and presents viewpoints both diverse and compelling. For example, in his thought-provoking essay "Dirty Talk," P. J. Macleod suggests using poetic form when researching pornography. Andrea Cornwall, an editor as well as a contributor, offers a fascinating anthropological study of Indian sex workers. Cornwall is careful to present the hidden details of the lives of the women engaged in such work. As she writes: "Less often do we see sex workers represented as people with complex lives involving a diversity of other people, including those they love as well as those who make their lives difficult." And contributor Katherine Radoslovich tackles the idea of conducting research in a residential aged-care center. Though in some circles this notion might be considered taboo, Radoslovich does a splendid job of balancing sensitivity and clinical objectivity. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.


Games Girls Play considers girls' experiences with video games in a range of contexts, including experiences at home, on social media, and in game design programs. Cunningham (communications and leadership studies, Gonzaga Univ.) offers research that explores how girls' experiences affect their lifelong interaction with technology and future career path consideration. The introductory literature review presents a wide range of research, including feminist perspectives of gender equality and video games; the substantial and thorough list of references is also a valuable resource for researchers on this topic. Later chapters describe original research based on interviews, focus groups, and analyses of blog posts and websites, placing the study of girls and video games in specific contexts such as video game marketing, family structures and dynamics, and social groups. The interviews with girls themselves are particularly valuable in providing perspective, but are often limited to short excerpts or summaries. The author acknowledges and proposes next steps in this research field, including an exploration of the long-term effects of the game design programs she studied, and expanding the research to a broader range of demographic and geographic populations of girls. Summing Up: Recommended. Undergraduates through faculty.


Gervais (criminology, Univ. of Ottawa) has a particular interest in gender discrimination in religious institutions, and in this book she presents a nuanced picture of Catholic women in contemporary
Canada. As the women religious in her account do, Gervais challenges stereotypes of nuns as passive. She describes how they navigate patriarchal structures while maintaining a variety of feminist commitments. The author begins with a discussion of how these women define what she refers to as their “feminisms.” She then walks through the women’s experience of patriarchy and their realization of their oppression and analyzes their feminist and Catholic spiritual practices. The final chapters describe how the Catholic Church has responded, how women have applied their feminism to change systems of authority, and how these women religious work as feminist activists. Gervais’s writing is accessible, and her descriptions are helpful. Though some may quibble with the focus on women who are, for the most part, over the age of 70, the book presents a nuanced account of a generation of Catholic women who walk a tightrope between feminist and Catholic ideals. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower- and upper-division undergraduates; graduate students.

8. From hysteria to hormones: a rhetorical history. Koerber, Amy. Pennsylvania State, 2018. 239p bibl index, 9780271080857 $99.95, 9780271080864 $34.95, 9780271081557 From Hysteria to Hormones: A Rhetorical History traces the discourse around female hysteria, a slippery and tenacious diagnosis with shifting boundaries across two millennia, to the emergence in the 20th century of the “hormonal woman.” Koerber (communication studies, Texas Tech) challenges the view of medical discovery and practice as an ever-ascendant trajectory, invoking instead the philosophical concept of topological time as a nonlinear folding and twisting of expert and popular concepts of biology and behavior. Jean-Martin Charcot’s 19th-century neurological studies and Ernest Starling’s 20th-century elucidation of hormones both simplified and complicated the rhetoric surrounding the mysterious and seemingly dangerous female body, forcing a reshaping rather than abandonment of traditional explanations of female symptoms and uncontrolled behaviors linked to menstruation, sexuality, and pregnancy. Koerber uses the tools of rhetoric to explore the long trajectory of hysteria (topos), the fragmentation of hysteria as medical discoveries created new momentum (stasis), the discourse of “remembering and forgetting” as old notions were reframed in modern scientific context (memory), the transition from the hysterical to the hormonal woman (metaphor), and the selective omissions that allow explanations of new medical discoveries to resonate with long-held beliefs and prejudices (enthymeme). Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.

9. Hegemonic masculinity: formulation, reformulation, and amplification. Messerschmidt, James W. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 181p bibl index, 9781538114032 $80.00, 9781538114049 $27.00, 9781538114056 $25.50 In Hegemonic Masculinity, Messerschmidt (sociology and criminology, Univ. of Southern Maine) traces the historical formulation, reformulation, and numerous unique applications of the concept of hegemonic masculinity. For over three decades, this ubiquitous concept has been influential in the scholarly examination of masculinity and gender studies—albeit with varying degrees of understanding (let alone consensus) of its meaning. The author sets out to provide extensive, meticulously researched historical context of its development as a concept, noting all the critiques, reformulations, and changes along the way. He pays particular attention to local, regional, and global applications of this concept and to how variations in culture have contributed to its evolution and ultimate complexity. The highly readable result is part conceptual archaeology and part comprehensive literature review; young scholars embarking on careers in the fields of men’s studies (specifically) or gender studies (in general) will find much to ponder here in the first semester of graduate school. More-seasoned gender researchers will
benefit as well: the book is a masterful compendium of historical and contemporary scholarship. In sum, this is an indispensable resource for those actively engaged in the study of gender and masculinity.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students and above.

319p bibl index, 9780226534121 $112.50, 9780226534091 $37.50, 9780226534268
This book describes the neglected, marginalized, and often hidden aspects of PND (prenatal diagnosis) and the tangled situations that result. Löwy (emer., French National Institute of Health & Medical Research) presents PND as a “gendered risk management technology” with widespread and often unintended consequences. Its transition from contested medical intervention to standard of care has been problematic in ways that deserve considerably more attention than is being given at present. The current volume covers much of the same ground as Löwy’s Imperfect Pregnancies (2017) but does so from a different perspective. The earlier work was mainly historical, but the current text is chiefly sociological and has at its core two case studies based on observations of clinical geneticists and fetopathologists in Brazil and France. Löwy stresses that even though PND has become routine in some parts of the world, for any woman, the choice—and the very meaning of the procedure—is always situated. Time, place, culture, personal values, and relationships collectively make PND anything but routine in practice. The text is engagingly written, provocative, and well-researched. Summing Up: Recommended. All academic levels/libraries.

11. Authenticity guaranteed: masculinity and the rhetoric of anti-consumerism in American culture. Robinson, Sally. Massachusetts, 2018. 239p bibl index, 9781625343529 $90.00, 9781625343536 $34.95, 9781613765944
Authenticity Guaranteed clarifies existing scholarship concerning the constructed relationships between gender, authenticity, and anti-consumerism in American culture in novels like Don DeLillo’s White Noise (1985) and Chuck Palahniuk’s Fight Club (1996). Robinson (English, Texas A&M) had already earned recognition in the field with the publication of two books, the most noteworthy being Marked Men: White Masculinity in Crisis (2000). Drawing some material from her own published articles, Robinson challenges prevailing arguments on the supposed threat of consumerism to “authentic” American masculinity in works like Naomi Klein’s No Logo (1999). Offering compelling re-readings of popular media and cultural criticism, each chapter takes up one aspect of the complex dynamic between gender, consumerism, and the quest for an authenticity that, according to the author, hasn’t yet been defined. While early chapters are somewhat dense and presume some prior knowledge, upper-level undergraduates should be able to understand and apply the author’s assertions, most importantly her coda, which connects disturbing current events to common beliefs associated with what is “fake,” what is “real,” and gender in the US. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

This is the companion volume to We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women: 1965–85: A Sourcebook (CH, Feb’18, 55-2129), and it settles the rumors about the nonexistence of black women artists. Four critical essays present a crisp description of the museum exhibition and the historical impact of Elizabeth Catlett, Third World Feminism, Senga Nengudi, Maren Hassinger, and Rodeo Caldona. This major project follows black women as they journey to locate, make, restructure, and
establish space. Readers with a sweet tooth and passion for art and activism are sure to enjoy this volume. From sculpting to visual arts, the book offers a scrupulous and compelling exploration of necessity, liberation, and survival. It is required reading for those wishing to understand the political strength of black women as they forcefully make a space for themselves in the art world. Feminists, activists, and historians alike will want both volumes of We Wanted a Revolution. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

In a volume that crosses and reconfigures borders and boundaries, Gill (UT Austin) uses field methods, personal reflections, and interludes to delve into historical consciousness and erotic desire in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Gill expands Audre Lorde's conception of the erotic as guiding methodology through which to explore the genealogy of political, sensual, and spiritual practices. The analysis brings together calypso musicians, carnival masquerade design, and HIV/AIDS organizations dedicated to prevention and care, with the aim of documenting an eminently local and specific "grassroots lesbian and gay artistry and activism." The concern here is not with exclusion or marginalization but instead with the ways that "same-sex-desiring people" have made and continue to make "space for themselves in the public domain through artistic expression and community-building techniques." Through personal interludes and excerpts from field diaries, Gill pushes against the boundaries of traditional ethnography while centering on the importance of participant observation, requiring a vital "presence on the field" and "on the page, in the text." Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

14. Glory in their spirit: how four black women took on the Army during World War II. Bolzenius, Sandra M. Illinois, 2018. 208p bibl index, 9780252041716 $99.00, 9780252083334 $19.95, 9780252050381 $17.96
In her meticulously researched and well-written study, Bolzenius (formerly, Ohio State) examines challenges facing African American women who enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during WW II. Recruiters promised that these women would improve their station in life and escape segregation through advanced training or posts to important service positions. Instead, African American recruits were kept in low positions, and they saw better jobs go to white WACs. Some 50 of these women who were unwilling to be continually assigned menial tasks went on strike against the US Army in 1945 and were subsequently court-martialed. This action resulted in a media uproar waged in the newspaper press of the time; racism, discrimination, patriotism, and the role of women in the military were hotly debated, and civil rights activists joined in common cause. Bolzenius, who herself served in the US Army, provides close profiles of four of these women—Mary Green, Anna Morrison, Johnnie Murphy, and Alice Young. Although all were convicted and were lost from national consciousness, their ordeal helped ensure desegregation of the armed forces in 1948. Heavily footnoted, this title will be a valuable resource for those interested in WW II, government, African American and minority history, and women's studies. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.
15. Women writers of the Beat era: autobiography and intertextuality. Carden, Mary Paniccia. Virginia, 2018. 227p bibl index, 9780813941219 $75.00, 9780813941226 $29.50, 9780813941233 $75.00

Once considered a minority literature by Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, and a handful of other male writers, friends all, Beat writing, as a genre, has evolved gradually into a more inclusive, though still largely male, cultural phenomenon. Enlarging perception of the Beat era requires more than rediscovering the work of, in this case, female writers and making that work available. It requires scholarly apparatus, theoretical reassessment, compelling arguments, and revaluing of the decades following the end of WW II. Carden (Edinboro Univ. of Pennsylvania) provides all of this in Women Writers of the Beat Era. This a large and complex task, since the work no longer speaks for just itself; it speaks out of and in relationship with the well-known Beat texts that have long shaped understanding of Beat, and with the considerable cultural myth that essentially forms what is known as Beat. Well researched, heavily footnoted, and closely argued, Women Writers of the Beat Era returns female writers—Diane di Prima, Bonnie Brenser, Hettie Jones, et al.—to their rightful place within the Beat canon and culture. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


Many know generally about reform movements before and after the Civil War, but few would recognize the efforts of Amy Kirby Post (1802–89)—largely overlooked by historians—who was at the forefront of practically every progressive effort to alter the nation for the better during the era. Hewitt (emer., history and women's studies, Rutgers), also author of Southern Discomfort: Women’s Activism in Tampa, Florida, 1880s–1920s (CH, Jun’02, 39-6004), now sets the historical record straight. A friend of Frederick Douglass, Lucretia Mott, Harriet Jacobs, and others, Post was a major participant in the Underground Railroad, and she and her husband welcomed into their home any and all seeking refuge from oppression. Post was a Quaker, and her concern for others was rooted in a progressive branch of the Society of Friends concerned about women’s inequality, the specter of slavery, and prejudice of many other forms. Post endured criticism for mingling with African Americans and for her acceptance of spiritualism, but she rose above it and became a leading organizer and spokesperson for suffrage and equality for women, working people, and African Americans. For an overview, see Daniel Walker Howe's What God Hath Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815–1848 (CH, Jun'08, 45-5767).

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and graduate students.


With the approach of the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Office (ILO), a Geneva-based, non-governmental organization that sought to establish global labor standards, there is renewed interest in the organization. Created after WW I, the ILO took on the challenges of the modern economy but showed little specific concern for women workers. As late as 1964, ILO officials insisted on the sameness of men’s and women’s work experience. As this volume demonstrates, in the ILO, there are documented differences among workers by gender and nation. Women’s ILO explores persistent efforts to address women’s inequality in workplaces and unions, working conditions that imperil women, and efforts to improve women’s lives. The connections among transnational feminist labor reformers are a centerpiece of the volume, which covers a range of topics over the lifetime of the ILO, from its founding in 1919 to the present day. Essays discuss the ILO’s historical development, its focus on working
mothers, and the emergence of women's leadership. Several contributions provide national case studies. Especially welcome are essays that cover recent history, women in the informal work force, and women in the global South. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

November 2018 Reviews

1. The cost of being a girl: working teens and the origins of the gender wage gap. Besen-Cassino, Yasemin. Temple, 2018. 194p bibl index, 9781439913482 $94.50, 9781439913499 $27.95, 9781439913505 $27.95.
Besen-Cassino (Montclair State) looks at the gender pay gap she believes begins in early employment experiences even if the jobs are in the informal sector. The book starts with a survey of the literature of labor economics on the topic, which the author says is primarily on the adult labor force and thus ignores the influence of early work experiences. She uses qualitative and quantitative methods to explore work experiences of young male and female workers. Most of the emphasis is on female workers, who often work as babysitters and shop girls. Personal narratives illustrate points Besen-Cassino wishes to make. Information based on statistics and statistical analysis are interspersed throughout the book. Though it offers insight into early work experiences and how they might affect adult employment, the book covers many different topics, such as body image, that are not central to the topic. The book is repetitive and extensively footnoted by parentheses in the text, which makes reading more difficult. The appendix gives methodological notes, and there are references and an index. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.

Policing is a well-studied area of interest for social scientists. However, there remain important aspects of the occupational experiences of police officers that deserve investigation. The experiences of those policing, for example, are studied relatively rarely, as most criminological research focuses on officers' experiences with the public. Retired police officer Panter (Liverpool John Moores Univ., UK) breaks from that trend and presents the first investigation into the experiences of transgender police. Panter examines the attitudes of cisgender police officers towards transgender officers, the experiences of police officers who identify as transgender, and the broader consequences of these attitudes and experiences. This first-of-its-kind research combines empirical, qualitative evidence with incisive theory and policy implications; the author presents valuable directions for future research. Each chapter contains a complete list of references and notes for further details on claims and statements made throughout the text. The book also contains a comprehensive index that provides excellent source material for research on policing and gender. This illuminating text will be an appreciated addition to any library collection, especially those supporting sociology, psychology, gender studies, or criminology and criminal justice programs. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.
3. The path to gay rights: how activism and coming out changed public opinion. Garretson, Jeremiah J. New York University, 2018. 297p index, 9781479822133 $99.00, 9781479850075 $35.00, 9781479824236

It has become a commonplace that one of the biggest social changes in the past 50 years has been the shift in attitude toward LGBT people and their rights. The questions that interest social scientists are how and why? Garretson (California State East Bay) has questions and explanations. Using social surveys to document the shift, he argues that the most important factor is the “tireless work of LGBT activists especially during the AIDS crisis.” As much as anything else, the crisis led to large exposure further leading to mass coming out. Garretson makes a significant contribution in his theory of affective liberalization, which is, in effect, a theory of how exposure in coming out changes support for LGBT rights. The theory, he argues in his conclusion, can be applied to other aspects of social change, perhaps with limited results. That remains to be seen. Quantitative data backs up the arguments of this serious social science book. It makes a significant contribution to the political science literature on LGBT studies by synthesizing and advancing the empirical arguments on the shift in opinion on gay rights in just a few generations. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


This brief but important and enlightening book explores how race was constructed and acquired meaning in the language used to describe runaway servants and slaves in mainland British America between 1750 and 1775. Block’s analysis builds from an impressive database of more than 4,000 newspaper advertisements. Unlike scholars who have used runaway ads to explore social history aspects of slavery or indentured servitude, Block (history, Univ. of California, Irvine) analyzes how descriptions in the advertisements reveal—and inscribed—assumptions regarding differences among “African-descended, European-descended, and Native American-descended people” (as Block writes in the epilogue) in a period before race became linked more directly to skin color. An opening chapter outlines early modern notions of complexion and the internal (humoral) forces that influenced an individual’s constitution and outward appearance. Four subsequent chapters explore the language used to describe characteristics such as height, age, physical fitness or unfitness, skin tone, hair and hairstyles, behavior, and scars. To cite one example from chapter 2, Block finds that men were twice as likely to be defined as “well made” than women, but that among women, that phrase was applied almost exclusively to women of African descent. The book is clearly written, but the analytical framework and presentation is best suited to more advanced readers. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

5. Turning the page: storytelling as activism in queer film and media. Coon, David R. Rutgers, 2018. 230p bibl index, 9780813593708 $99.95, 9780813593692 $26.95, 9780813593715 $26.95

Coon (Univ. of Washington Tacoma) examines ways in which LGBTQ organizations working outside the mainstream Hollywood film and television industry can help individuals tell their stories for wider dissemination. The text focuses on three significant organizations—the now-defunct In The Life Media, which produced LGBTQ documentaries for public television for two decades; POWER UP, which mentors filmmakers toward moving individual stories into longer films; and Three Dollar Bill Cinema, which helps organize local LGBTQ film festivals and filmmaking camps for aspiring young filmmakers. Although the discussion is limited primarily to the history of these three organizations, Coon cites a number of additional critics and scholars who expand on the importance of storytelling, particularly for the LGBTQ
community. However, given Coon’s limited scope, libraries without comprehensive media studies or LBGTQ collections might find his work interesting but too narrow for their holdings. Given that caveat, Coon is still a fine companion to Between the Sheets, In the Streets: Queer, Lesbian, Gay Documentary (Minnesota, 1997). Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

6. America’s changing icons: constructing patriotic women from World War I to the present. Babic, Annessa Ann. Fairleigh Dickinson, 2018. 201p bibl index, 9781683931348 $90.00, 9781683931355 $85.50

Babic treats the development of the patriotic feminine, always white, from the goddess-like Columbia to the war-supporting Rosie the Riveter through the many transformations of Wonder Woman. A reworking of Babic’s dissertation, the book examines these figures through the lenses of contemporaneous advertisements in popular magazines, posters, editorials, and journalism. Babic begins with the iconic Columbia, the self-sacrificing "American girl" on a pedestal, and goes on to consider Rosie the Riveter as a patriot who labors for herself and her country. Even Wonder Woman, introduced in 1941, has numerous identities that fit the times. No single image of the patriotic feminine ideal emerged after WW II—the US became more multifaceted and conflicted in its views about women and their roles in family, work, politics, society, and war. Babic discusses women’s liberation, the unsuccessful campaign for the ERA, and even the Gulf War, ending with a postscript on the film Wonder Woman (2017). Scholarly notes appear at the end of each chapter, but the book includes only a handful of visual images and would have benefited from more. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduates, students, researchers, faculty.

7. Rethinking Japanese feminisms. ed. by Julia C. Bullock, Ayako Kano, and James Welker. Hawai‘i, 2018. 301p index, 9780824866693 $65.00, 9780824866730 $85.50

This welcome collection offers a refresher course on the canon of feminist history in Japan, melded with new material that tracks developments, debates, and detours. The book is truly interdisciplinary, with contributions from the fields of anthropology, sociology, literature, history, gender studies, and media studies from scholars in the US, Australia, Japan, and Singapore. Bullock (Emory Univ.), Kano (Univ. of Pennsylvania), and Welker (Kanagawa Univ., Japan) are prominent scholars, each having published pathbreaking work on gender in Japan. Sections of the book explore feminism in the domains of political activism, education, work, and aesthetic production. Joining expected chapters on feminist icons and notable educators are vignettes on radical activists, writers, and arts practitioners. Some chapters highlight individuals and arts production that were not included in previous surveys of feminism in Japan. The chapters on the backlash against feminism (by Tomomi Yamaguchi), the women’s suffragette movement (Elyssa Faison), and the history of lesbian activists (Welker) are particularly worthy. The volume’s richly expansive domain will provoke questions about how one should define feminist activity and lives. The editors took care to assure that the essays are brief and written in accessible language, making this volume ideal for use in undergraduate courses on Japan, feminisms, and gender studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.


In Lust on Trial, Werbel (history of art, Fashion Institute of Technology) documents the career of Anthony Comstock, a professional censor for the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice from 1873 until his death in 1915. This is a tale of an inspector who fought the purveyors of vice in the streets
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and in court, cracking down on everything from art to theater and literature. Werbel uses case studies of Comstock’s arrest records to illustrate suppression of a wide array of materials on the basis of gender and sexuality. Werbel argues that Comstock forced Americans to practice his version of Christian virtue and in so doing changed US law and culture in ways that are still evident today. Werbel also examines the tremendous pushback Comstock got from those concerned about civil liberties. The book includes both color and black-and-white illustrations and photographs, a key to abbreviations, and chapter notes. Appropriate for those interested in law as well as US history. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.


With this volume, Martino (Univ. of Akron) skillfully expands the historiography of northeastern borderland and women’s history. This work illustrates the active roles 17th- and 18th-century European and native women played in making war in Colonial New France and New England. Martino reveals that, contrary to previous historical portrayals and interpretations, women’s participation in martial activities was neither odd nor passive. Instead, these societies encouraged women’s participation as necessary for the protection of the social order. Due to the lack of sufficient sources on indigenous peoples, Women at Work focuses largely on New France and New England; native women’s participation is still included, though more often this is to inform the experiences of European colonists. This book is a valuable addition to the scholarship of early America, women and gender studies, and borderland history, as it more fully illuminates women’s active martial activities than previous studies of this time and place. It is also useful to those seeking a better understanding of how later histories changed the historical narrative to support late-18th- and early-19th-century gendered ideologies. Summing Up: Recommended. All academic libraries.

10. Feminist rhetorical science studies : human bodies, posthumanist worlds. ed. by Amanda K. Booher and Julie Jung. Southern Illinois, 2018. 260p bibl index, 9780809336333 $45.00, 9780809336340 $45.00

English scholars Booher and Jung (Univ. of Akron and Illinois State Univ., respectively) explore feminist rhetorical studies in science in this edited collection. Several chapters specifically address feminist rhetorical issues within the health care sector. In the introduction, Booher and Jung lay the foundation for the work by describing the frequent conflicts between feminism and biological determinism. Chapter contributors address a range of related topics, including object-oriented ontology, flat ontologies, the rhetoric surrounding medical patient non-compliance, the impact of technical writer gender on science communication, rhetoric surrounding the science of gendered brains, gender representation in the FDA patient representative program, and FDA rhetoric. The authors offer a depth of knowledge given their strong and diverse backgrounds in academia. A strong point of this book is that it builds a coherent narrative, as chapters are connected by excellent transitions; each chapter builds on the one preceding it. Overall, this text is well researched and offers robust feminist critiques of science rhetoric. As the prologue states, this book is most appropriate for graduate students and faculty. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students and above.

In this invaluable book film scholar J. E. Smyth (history, Univ. of Warwick, UK) shows that women were the prime movers in the motion picture industry from the 1890s forward—starting with Alice Guy-Blaché, who directed La Fée aux Choux (1896), which was arguably the first short film with a plot. But it was during the 1930 to 1950 period that women really came to power in Hollywood. Editorial director Margaret Booth supervised the entire output of MGM from the 1930s through the 1960s, and Virginia Van Upp was busy producing films for Columbia, among them the enormous hit Gilda (1946). Bette Davis had a production company of her own at Warner Bros., and Frances Marion enjoyed a long career as a writer and producer at MGM, winning an Academy Award for her screenplay for The Champ (1931). Dorothy Arzner became a much-in-demand director for Paramount, whereas Ida Lupino struck out on her own as a director after a long career as an actor. The list goes on and on. This excellent, detailed account of the women who made Hollywood hum offers an an entirely new vision of Hollywood. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.


This commendable study of Irish American women’s engagement in public roles over pivotal decades between the New Departure and Ireland’s Free State creation encompasses spheres of labor, nationalist support, and suffrage. The descendants of Famine-era arrivals and more recent immigrant Irish women who assumed leadership in the workplace, within the ethnic culture, and on campaigns for full citizenship negotiated contemporary cultural, political, and denominational minefields to battle nativism and promote social and labor reforms. From within collectives such as the Women’s Trade Union League and the Ladies’ Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish female activists served both ethnic community interests and the cause of Ireland’s freedom. Through her analysis, McCarthy (Central Michigan Univ.) reveals important synergies in Irish-American history. Women’s crusading is revealed as a key factor in contemporary cultural adjustments from unwelcome immigrant to acceptable citizen, while overarching themes of immigrant settlement, exile, transatlantic connection, and assimilation bolster innovative research on women such as Marguerite Moore, Mary F. McWhorter, and others yet unsung within the ethnic pantheon. McCarthy’s welcome update to the Irish American field deserves widespread academic attention, while general readers will appreciate her strong historiographical foundation and engaging writing style. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.


This is a reprint of a biography first published in 1978 (CH, Feb’79) and long out of print. A leading anarchist writer, Avrich (who died in 2006) attempted, but did not finish, a series of works describing American anarchism through the lives of its major proponents. Cleyre (1866–1912), his first subject, was a radical philosopher, poet, and feminist—praised by other anarchists as the most brilliant intellect among the US’s revolutionary thinkers of the day. She was plagued by ill health, died relatively young, and was largely forgotten until Avrich resurrected her reputation. Since then, many of her works have been republished. In the foreword, Robert Helms argues persuasively for the need for this new edition, not only because Cleyre has inspired a new generation of young anarchists and radical feminists but also to call attention once more to Avrich’s incisive studies, especially on 19th-century Russian anarchists.
Avrich whitewashes Cleyre a bit—for example he does not mention her 1897 abortion—but that does not detract from Avrich's powerful elucidation of Cleyre's single-minded anarchist principles. Helms rates Cleyre with Emma Goldman and Ursula Le Guin—high praise indeed. Those who have not read the original edition should take note of this reprint. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

This volume was written to accompany an exhibition of the same title at the Library of Congress, but it is not a traditional catalogue of the works in the show. Rather, it offers lavishly illustrated interpretive essays about American women who worked as cartoonists, industrial illustrators, journalistic illustrators, book designers, and caricaturists from 1880 to 2014. The writing is scholarly but accessible. As Kennedy (curator of popular and applied graphic art, Library of Congress) writes in the preface, much of the analysis focuses on how women needed to resist the "limitations in training, permitted subject matter, and adequate work environments" to have society appreciate their creativity. In early comics, for example, women were encouraged to draw "cute babies, children, and animals" but little else. Despite such hamstringing, women used their voices to make cultural commentary, sometimes slyly inserted into conventional venues. In addition to mainstream media, underground comix are included, as are radical magazines such as The Masses. Footnotes and biographies of each artist are also included. This book will appeal to those interested in illustration, publishing, and gender studies in the US. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

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1. LGBTQ social movements. Stulberg, Lisa M. Polity, 2018. 228p bibl index, 9780745656076 $64.95, 9780745656083 $22.95, 9781509527403 $22.95
This impressive book will be an invaluable resource for anyone looking for a concise, efficient, all-inclusive look at LGBTQ social movements and their history. Stulberg (sociology of education, NYU) weaves together social movement theory and history to impress on readers the complexity of the movement and the many forms that have characterized it over the last 70 years. The book is organized chronologically and around themes such as assimilationism/liberationism, use of art and popular culture, and interconnectedness of movements. The author points out that LGBTQ social activism, like other great movements of the mid- to late-20th century, is about a marginalized group and its relationships with its country and institutions. As for the movement’s future, Stulberg argues that “in the current educational, technological, and pop culture moment—LGBTQ social change occurs in and through culture, sometimes with the backing of law and policy, and sometimes outside of it.” Stonewall and other moments in the struggle exemplify youth’s crucial role. Not surprisingly, Stulberg suggests that schools and media are at the forefront of LGBTQ social change. Stulberg’s book and references provide a portal into further study. Other relevant resources include George Chauncey's Gay New York (CH, Nov'94, 32-1725) and Why Marriage? (2004) and Lillian Faderman's The Gay Revolution (CH, Feb'16, 53-2763). Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.
2. Gender roles in American life: a documentary history of political, social, and economic changes. ed. by Constance L. Shehan. ABC-CLIO, 2018. 2v index, 9781440859588 $198.00, 9781440859595 $198.00

The two-volume documentary history Shehan (Univ. of Florida) assembled examines the influence of religion, policy, and technological and economic developments on the social construction of gender roles in the US from 1775 to the present. Organized chronologically, excerpts encompass perspectives from women activists, political and religious leaders, industrialists, authors, journalists, and other notable figures. Each chapter begins with an overview of key events that shaped gender roles in the period. Brief biographical sketches of their authors preface document excerpts; references conclude each chapter. Volume 1 offers a balance of gendered perspectives on issues ranging from women’s suffrage to the division of labor. For example, Susan B. Anthony counters Alexander Graham Bell’s essay on women’s “extremism” in 1875 with her 1877 speech, “Homes of Single Women”; Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s 1898 study decrying women's economic dependence on men is juxtaposed with Theodore Roosevelt’s 1901 speech extolling “American manhood.” Volume 2 focuses on challenges to traditional gender boundaries and includes the writings of Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, and Phyllis Schlafly. The volume ends with an array of writings illuminating gender dynamics in the context of the rise of social and political activism in the early 21st century. This skillfully curated work will engage and foster thoughtful discussion among students of historical, cultural, and gender studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Undergraduates.


Risman (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) led a team that interviewed 116 college students who came of age after 2000 (the generation known as Millennials). The ambitious goal was to map these emerging adults’ experiences and attitudes about the extent, sources, and salience of gender differences and inequality. Risman devotes a chapter to each of the four clusters of respondents’ ideas the researchers identified: true believers, innovators, rebels, and straddlers. The empirical materials are fascinating, and Risman’s exposition—presenting individual portraits and exploring puzzles and variations within and across types—is insightful, organized, and accessible. Risman doesn’t stop at excerpting fascinating interviews with diverse young adults. She has thoroughly re-thought her multi-level theory of gender as a social structure. The revised conceptual apparatus enriches the data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The new evidence in turn bolsters Risman’s theory of how interactions, cultural beliefs, expectations, and organizational rules and practices produce, position, and police women and men as essentially different and unequal. Even better, her findings about Millennials inform Risman’s assessment of crisis tendencies and her vision of strategies to demolish gender. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

4. Fathering from the margins: an intimate examination of black fatherhood. Abdill, Aasha M. Columbia, 2018. 259p bibl index, 9780231180023 $60.00, 9780231542272 $59.99

In this admittedly “me-search” social science study (the researcher shares a background with those she studies or has personal experience with the topic), Abdill employs a variety of methodological approaches to examine the potential social and structural constraints and barriers poor black men in urban settings face as they attempt to support their children and be involved in their lives. In her nearly four-year case study of the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, the author utilizes methods such as ethnographic participant observation of 10 fathers, in-depth interviews with 7 fathers,
and short interviews with 34 fathers (as well as interviews and surveys of teachers, employees, and escorts of children at a childcare center) to more fully understand how these men “do fathering” (the extent and nature of their presence and engagement with their children). Abdill explores how factors at the micro and macro levels, especially the women in the families and in the larger community, influence such involvement. Overall, this is a fresh contribution to the areas of fatherhood/men’s studies (specifically) and racial/ethnic studies (in general). Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

5. Journeys: resilience and growth for survivors of intimate partner abuse, Gender and justice, 5. Miller, Susan L. California, 2018. 276p bibl index, 9780520286085 $85.00, 9780520286108 $29.95, 9780520961463 $29.95
Miller (sociology and criminal justice, Univ. of Delaware) presents the findings of a study of 31 survivors of interpersonal violence and abuse (IPV/A). A new concept advanced by the author, IPV/A is broader than IPV. Miller is concerned not just with IPV/A per se but also with long-term survival. The author devotes chapters to an overview of the subject, the methodology of her research, and analysis of the history and context of the abusive relationships, processing the abuse with a focus on restructuring the lives of her subjects and strategies for long-term survival. The final chapter, “Paths to Survivorship and Suggestions for Policy,” places the findings in context. The text is well written and accessible to nonspecialists. Miller makes effective use of direct quotes but includes very few tables. This book is appropriate for those interested in counseling, psychology, sociology, or social work. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

Across edited chapters, using the framework of liberation psychology, the authors of Women’s Human Rights weave together a powerful, complex, and unifying conceptualization of women’s human rights violations as well as a call for social change. Their core position is this: in order to advance women’s human rights, psychology must be integrated with feminist activist scholarship and grassroots community action to transform structural inequities that violate these rights. While feminist psychology offers well-developed models for advancing social justice, practitioners and social psychologists are often absent from activism and from activist scholarship in the women’s human rights field. The authors, advocating for prioritizing the voices of oppressed women around the globe, emphasize the overlapping experiences of poverty and gender-based violence. These violations of women’s human rights, presented from sociological and political science perspectives, are discussed in terms of resistance, liberation, and justice. A case is made for the use of participatory action research, as this flattens hierarchies and enables the collaborative co-creation of insights among researchers and the women who know firsthand the impacts of human rights violations. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, and professionals.

McRae (Western Carolina Univ.) makes the compelling case that reducing massive resistance to a decade from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s obscures its political evolution and renders its activists reactionaries. The author shows that the politics of massive resistance developed over a period of several decades from the 1920s to the 1970s. Examining this resistance through the eyes of four
southern white segregationists—Nell Battle Lewis, Florence Sillers Ogden, Mary Dawson Cain, Cornelia Dabney Tucker—McRae reveals that these women and their southern sisters were not isolated but rather part of a widespread political mobilization. Though initially these women publicly promoted the importance of maintaining de jure segregation and "white over black," over time they came to emphasize other fears—e.g., communist subversion and runaway government control. As southern women adapted, they were able to cultivate relationships with other conservative activists across the US, but ideas of white supremacy always remained under the surface. For McRae, the forced busing controversies of the 1970s in various cities across the US brings home the idea of an expanded notion of massive resistance and the idea that racism in the US has been persistent and pervasive, occurring across vast periods of time and crossing regional boundaries. McRae deserves kudos for her extensive research. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

8. Same-sex marriage and social media: how online networks accelerated the marriage equality movement. Gibson, Rhonda. Routledge, 2018. 177p bibl index, 9781138894839 $150.00, 9781138894853 $39.95, 9781315179773 $39.95

Gibson (UNC) provides a comprehensive analysis of how social media contributed to the increased visibility of, and public support for, same-sex marriage in the US. She begins by describing the history of marriage in the US, news coverage of same-sex marriage and how the personal attitudes of journalists informed such coverage, the advent and use of social media for civic engagement, and how social media, by transcending geography, helped lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer groups establish a sense of community. Gibson identifies the “messaging strategies” of prominent organizations in support of same-sex marriage, as well as strategies organizations used against same-sex marriage, particularly conservative religious organizations and queer organizations that viewed marriage as a hetero-normative and patriarchal issue/distraction. Gibson concludes by using two prominent theories of persuasion—the spiral of silence and the theory of dissonant identity priming—to explain how and why people (quickly) came to support same-sex marriage. Throughout, she offers important insights into the ways communities could use social media to facilitate political participation and shift public opinion. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


Central to this volume’s thesis is the notion of intersectionality, how interlocking systems of inequality—racism, sexism, heterosexism, and economic oppression—contribute to aggression, subjugation, and differential justice system outcomes for girls of color, poor girls, and LGBTQ girls. Contributors, who are primarily sociologists and criminologists, uncover structural inequalities that shape behavior by examining the media representations of girls’ aggression and the criminalization of this behavior. Essays cover a wide range of topics, including moral panics and the policing of girlhood, news media depictions of violent girls, the female world of love and ritual violence, African American girl fights on social media, violence in delinquent girls’ lives, sex trafficking, the racialized sexualization of Latina girls, and female bullying. Unique for its focus on intersectionality, this collection provides a deep, informed way to understand the issues related to female aggression by illuminating the role that social institutions play in how girls of different backgrounds are labeled and treated in society. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.
Leonard (Simmons College) explores the reframing of marriage and its context in today's society through personal observations and research on related topics. She discusses the wife cycle and wives in a "contemporary climate saturated by neoliberal feminism," starting with online dating, weddings, marriage-oriented television shows, and the socioeconomic values of "reality wives"; discusses alternative marriage arrangements such as polygamy in terms of the "logistics of supply and demand"; and concludes by spotlighting political wives. While lightly addressing issues of race and sexual orientation, no discussion of methods used in the selection and analysis of the programs is provided. Inclusion of My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding, the American spin-off of the British TV show, as part of the socioeconomic and cultural examination in the wedding section, could have provided another layer of social status discussion. The conversation of wifedom does not include children and procreation. Footnotes range from academic books to surveys from the Pew Institute. No bibliography. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

In this compelling book, Lewis (Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte) explores freedom narratives written by African American women from 1861 to the 1890s. Unlike narratives of emancipation, written to support the cause of abolition before the Civil War, and not what Angelyn Mitchell has called "liberatory narratives," written to explore the complexities of slavery by later generations, freedom narratives asserted African American women's national citizenship by writing that citizenship into the national discourse. Freedom narratives were, Lewis argues in the introduction, above all an articulation of authors' "freedom to choose their paths and to tell their own stories, in their own words and on their own terms" during the second half of the 19th century, when the terms of African American women's citizenship were matters of intense political debate. To make her case, Lewis moves across a variety of narrative genres, including diary, autobiography, and fiction. She carefully analyzes works by authors such as Charlotte Forten, Elizabeth Keckley, Frances E. W. Harper, and Anna Julia Cooper. Crucially contributing to feminist recovery work and scholarship in African American studies, Freedom Narratives of African American Women is required reading for those interested in 19th-century America. Summing Up: Essential. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.

12. Gaming masculinity: trolls, fake geeks, and the gendered battle for online culture. Condis, Megan. Iowa, 2018. 138p bibl index, 9781609385651 $65.00, 9781609385668 $65.00
Condis (English, Stephen F. Austin State Univ.) concisely summarizes and analyzes the cultural phenomena around Gamergate and similar attacks on women in cyberspace. In this short work, she covers trolling, gender theory, geek and gamer cultures, and meme theory, among other topics. This brevity is useful in that it effectively communicates the main issues and some historical background, but the approach has some risks. Condis makes many broad generalizations that oversimplify a complex situation and may perpetuate the very binaries that she criticizes. Even the subtitle of the book, "Trolls, Fake Geeks, and the Gendered Battle for Online Culture," suggests a sort of war between men (bad) and women (good) for dominance in digital media. There is enormous individual variation in gamer culture and attitudes toward gender identity. Selecting the most egregious examples of bad behavior and presenting them as the norm can lead to flawed conclusions. By writing in the first person, Condis does
make clear that she is expressing her personal opinions. The book would be much stronger if it recognized the diversity of perspectives and participants in online culture and how these have evolved over time. Summing Up: Recommended. With the caveats above. All readers.


In 2005, the American Bar Association’s Commission on Women in the Profession undertook an oral history project to interview 100 outstanding senior women lawyers. Participants were asked to recount personal and professional lives to younger women lawyers conducting the interviews. The interviews were recorded and later transcribed. Norgren (John Jay College) was given the opportunity to turn the interviews into a history of women in the legal profession. These individual histories are woven together in coherent text to highlight the many similarities and reveal the emerging pattern. Norgren set the histories in chronological order but not by specific dates. She has childhood experiences in one chapter, law school experiences in another. The women’s careers are very different. This book is very well written and an enjoyable reading experience. It describes the gender discrimination these trailblazers faced to enter a male dominated profession, and it points to the places where gender discrimination in the legal profession still exists. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.


On October 1918, in St. Louis, a young woman named Nina McCall was approached by a police officer and told to report to a doctor for a health examination for venereal disease. The results were devastating. Although Nina had never had sexual relations, the doctor told her that she was “slightly diseased.” She was committed to Bay City Detention Hospital. This scenario was repeated all over the country for thousands of young women in an effort to keep the soldiers who were preparing for war free of disease. Officials in the US government believed that venereal disease would weaken the troops and so prostitutes, women suspected of being prostitutes, women of low income, and minority women were rounded up, examined, and sent to detention houses. This system persisted until the 1950s and in some places until the 1970s. Nina McCall’s story of humiliation and struggle echoes the stories of countless other young women in a country that touts its democratic lifestyle and freedom. A timely story, this book is a result of a great deal of research on the part of Stern (now earning a degree at Yale Law School) and well worth reading. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

15. Woman suffrage & citizenship in the Midwest, 1870–1920. Egge, Sara. Iowa, 2018. 233p bibl index, 9781609385576 $85.00, 9781609385583 $85.00

Egge (Centre College) reveals the highly localized character of the suffrage campaigns. Her study focuses on three counties in the upper Midwest where women encountered unique challenges in their efforts for the ballot. Although well-heeled in organizing for church and civic activities, women found the religious and ethnic diversity of their areas an obstacle in crafting a coherent message that would motivate men to enfranchise them as peers. Women honed their activism through local civic work, and their first recognition as citizens came at the local level. One of their dilemmas involved the tandem causes of temperance and suffrage. In this region, concerns about temperance helped dilute support for voting rights. Likewise, fears of female autonomy roused lively newspaper debate. This is interesting in a
region of farming so reliant on the able-bodied partnership of women. Years’ worth of work by women garnered little success until national organizations partnered with state organizations during World War I. As a regional suffrage study that explores the parameters of citizenship, this is a valuable contribution. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Doyle (Salem College) examines personal and cultural perceptions of women’s bodies in defining motherhood in the US from 1750 to 1850. She argues that there is historical continuity in how women have personally viewed their bodies and motherhood. She states that mothers have regarded their physical labors, such as childbearing, breastfeeding, and child-rearing, as central to their definition of motherhood, resulting in ambivalence toward the experience. Cultural perceptions, however, changed, especially from 1750 to 1850, when American print media ignored the role of women’s physical trials and instead depicted “good” mothers as moral, spiritual, and genteel, as well as white, native-born, and well-off. She makes her point well, in large part due to her wide array of sources, which include private journals, slave narratives, and popular literature. Though most sources are from the eastern US, Doyle included those with a national audience. By examining the dissonance between personal and cultural definitions of motherhood and by reclaiming women’s physical bodies as significant to the historical narrative, Doyle provides a more complete understanding of the historical experiences of women, especially mothers. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

17. American tomboys, 1850–1915. Sentilles, Renée M. Massachusetts, 2018. 258p bibl index, 9781625343192 $90.00, 9781625343208 $26.95
Sentilles (Case Western Reserve Univ.) traces the history of tomboys through print culture between 1850 and 1915, “examin[ing] how a growing belief in (white) childhood innocence, the expansion of ... coeducation, and popular narratives came together to forge a new girl archetype.” Using print culture to explore the tomboy’s rise, Sentilles explores this archetype in Little Women, dime novels, and Western pulp fiction. The book’s first four chapters are the most effective, examining the relationship between tomboys and white supremacy in the West and how tomboys eventually “evolve” into normative heterosexual women. This book effectively charts the rapidly changing boundaries between childhood, adolescence, and adulthood during the same period. Readers will gain a nuanced understanding of the tomboy’s origins and her complicated racial history. Sentilles ends with a coda that summarizes the rapidly changing dynamics of gender and childhood during the last decade: “the tomboy identity allows girls and women the pleasing paradox of being able to articulate discomfort with conformity through an easily recognized yet malleable concept.” This is an essential title for all libraries and all levels. Summing Up: Essential. General readers; lower-division undergraduates through faculty.

The accepted historical narrative is that society’s vulnerability to the AIDS crisis of the 1980s was fomented by the gay sexual revolution of the 1970s. Batza (Univ. of Kansas) uses archival material and interview data to uncover a different history of the events leading up to the AIDS crisis. Rather than springing from a single taproot of gay identity politics, the earliest and most trusted efforts to address AIDS grew from fibrous roots of 1970s gay health activism, social and political movements, and purposeful adaptations of existing institutions. Case studies of gay health clinics in Boston, Los Angeles,
and Chicago illuminate the context in which volunteers, medical professionals, and researchers were trained and prepared during the 1970s to be the first responders in the AIDS crisis. The Boston clinic was rooted in community organizing efforts against neighborhood gentrification; the Los Angeles center focused on treating the oppression sickness afflicting marginalized individuals; and the Chicago clinic emerged from gay doctors’ dissatisfaction with their clinical medical education. These clinics were trusted by gay clients ill-served by mainstream medicine; they were experienced in the political organization and collaboration essential to advancing the multidimensional cause of gay health. An illuminating and well-researched volume. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.


New and established scholars explore the intersection of religion and sexuality to challenge the assumption that religious individuals and groups universally opposed the sexual liberalism of the 20th century. Comstock's purity crusade in the 19th century and campaigns against abortion and gay rights in the late 20th century bookend a century of more nuanced religious perspectives on sexuality. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish groups built on the Cold War consensus of the "Judeo-Christian heritage" to defend a variety of sexual policies, including an anti-pornography stance focused on "perversion" rather than heterosexuality. Jews, Catholics, and Mormons promoted pronatalist policies, and mainline Protestants argued for birth control. Catholics worried about the dangers of celibacy, and Mormon women cultivated their sexuality to exert power within traditional families. Gay and lesbian sexualities also found expression within spiritual movements. Gay men sought meaningful relationships in spiritual communion with each other in nature. Reconstructionist Jews ordained female, gay, and lesbian rabbis. The YWCA, yoga, the celibates in Father Divine's Peace Mission movement, and—in the midst of the dark AIDS crisis—the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco offered alternative visions of religious and sexual politics. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

20. Keep the days: reading the Civil War diaries of Southern women. Stowe, Steven M. North Carolina, 2018. 199p index, 9781469640952 $90.00, 9781469640969 $29.95, 9781469640976 $22.99

Covering 20 published 19th-century diarists, Stowe (emer., Indiana Univ., Bloomington) delivers impressive insights into how to approach such personal accounts objectively. His methodology incorporates readers' empathy (as opposed to sympathy), contextual reading, and comprehension of a diarist's point of view (perhaps especially when she details trivialities), thus addressing basics in reading not only personal accounts but also history. Stowe organizes the book into six chapters: "Reading the Diary," "Keeping the Diary," "Wartime," "Men," "Slaves," "Herself." In keeping diaries, women attended to their responsibility to inscribe their lives during the war years; notably, however, they wrote variably for themselves, for their husbands, for posterity, as therapy, as documentation, and—overarching all—in and for the moment. In recording the moment, they kept the moment. Stowe expounds that the authors—he refers to them as “ghosts” writing to the future—depended on responsible readers to be properly heard. By focusing on how to understand the women's often-unsympathetic sentiments and words, he paradoxically invests these ethereal authors with profound humanity. His profiles of the diarists and his pithy analyses throughout add meaningful depth to this excellent study. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.
404p bibl index, 9780525429722 $28.00, 9780698407831
With a unique focus on the final six weeks of the American women's suffrage campaign in the summer of 1920, Weiss brings history to life. In July 1920, with 35 states having voted in favor of ratifying the 19th Amendment, one more state was needed. Realizing that the Tennessee legislature was likely to be the last state in the foreseeable future to vote on women's suffrage, suffragist and anti-suffragist forces swarmed into the state to lobby the all-male legislators. Weiss explores how both sides used almost any means necessary to win votes, including bribery, and white suffragists' willingness to leave black women behind in their quest for the vote. This solidly researched book includes flashbacks to earlier events in the suffrage movement, and places the action in contemporary historical context. Although the outcome of the vote in Tennessee is well known, Weiss created a tension in the narrative that makes the book difficult to put down. It includes abundant illustrations. More detail in the citations would have made it more useful for scholars. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.

22. Just watch us: RCMP surveillance of the women's liberation movement in Cold War Canada. by Christabelle Sethna and Steve Hewitt. McGill-Queen's, 2018. 300p bibl index, 9780773552821 $34.95, 9780773553668
This text examines the state surveillance of feminist activism primarily in English Canada. Sethna (gender studies, Univ. of Ottawa) and Hewitt (history, Univ. of Birmingham, UK) present a profile of the women's liberation movement as perceived by the RCMP based on heavily censored declassified RCMP (similar to the FBI) security service files, interviews, government documents, and secondary sources. Spying activity was based on the RCMP's misapprehension that the women's movement included individuals and groups with communist ties who were believed to pose a threat to the national security. The women's movement, however, was concerned with gender equality, violence against women, day care, racism, sexuality, and so forth. The authors describe the history of RCMP's security service, highlight women's demand for the reform of restrictive abortion laws, and describe the role of an international women's conference advocating an end to the Vietnam War (which further increased the RCMP's spying activity). After reviewing the heavily censored RCMP files, the authors reflect on the ethical challenges encountered in researching the historical legacy of state surveillance. This volume is an important addition to gender and state security studies. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, and faculty.

September 2018 Reviews

1. We rise to resist: voices from a new era in women's political action. ed. by Paula W. Dáil and Betty L. Wells. McFarland, 2018. 272p bibl index, 9781476671642 $39.95, 9781476632957
In We Rise to Resist, Dáil and Wells offer essays detailing the re-emergence of the women's movement in the aftermath of the election of Donald Trump. According to the editors, these are “protest statements” by women as “first-person writers,” and the the result is an “evolving historical record” of a resurgent political movement. Joining recent works on the Women's March such as Together We Rise (2018), Why We March (2017), and Rise Up! (2017), We Rise to Resist is an ode to grassroots resistance with a special focus on personal reflections of female activists from different races, classes, ethnicities, religious backgrounds, and sexual orientations. Contributors represent a range of women's voices, giving new meaning to “the personal is political” by detailing the intersections of women's lived experiences in
the changing post-election landscape. Essays focus on climate-change science, environmentalism, healthcare, race relations, immigration, and public education, to name just a few of the topics. The volume serves not only as a springboard for classroom discussions but also as a unique documentary source for future generations. We Rise to Resist contextualizes third-wave feminism by highlighting the diversity of women’s experiences while offering a space for reflection and a call for political action with the departing question: “What will you do?” Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.


Whittier (sociology, Smith College) has written a fascinating book about the shifting relationship between feminists and conservative activists on federal legislative debates about pornography, child sexual violence, and violence against women. She devotes a lengthy chapter to each, and each chapter can stand alone. The three core chapters are bracketed by an introductory chapter, which provides both theoretical and empirical background, and a concluding chapter, which draws out the implications of the case studies for sociological research. Whittier makes excellent use of transcripts from Congressional hearings—drawing on them to elucidate the relative roles of conservatives and feminists in framing issues—and of news reports, feminist and conservative publications, contemporaneous interviews, and archives of activist groups. This is truly an interdisciplinary book, using historical method to answer sociological questions. Although Whittier has previously written on each of the three issues—for example, in Feminist Generations: The Persistence of the Radical Women's Movement (CH, Dec'95, 33-2449)—the present book zeroes in on the complex and often troubled relationships between the partially opposed “frenemies” who find different models of alliance on each issue. Whittier’s findings are especially important in demonstrating the influence of political context on social movement outcomes and also in providing empirical evidence about the pros and cons of “getting in bed with the enemy.” Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


This is the third edition of Diversity in the Power Elite, and each edition bears its own subtitle (1st ed., subtitled Have Women and Minorities Reached the Top?, CH, Jul'98, 35-6547; 2nd ed., How It Happened, Why It Matters, CH, Apr'07, 44-4767). The subtitle of the present edition signifies Zweigenhaft and Domhoff’s shift in emphasis, with a series of chapters describing the modest increase in diversity in the power elite. Somewhat tedious chapters on Jews, women, blacks, Latinos, Asians, and LGBT people form the core of the book. The most interesting chapter is the last one, "The Ironies of Diversity." The authors argue that the central irony is that the diversity achieved "reinforces the unchanging nature of the class structure and increases the tendency to ignore class inequalities." Another featured irony is the "improbable partnership" between African American leaders and Republican leaders to redistrict southern states into a few majority African American congressional districts and mostly predominately white districts with Republican majorities. To understand the limited gains in diversity, one must understand that class, education, and skin color are crucial, as is the ability to conform to the white Christian male culture that still dominates the upper echelon of US society. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates.
4. **Gendered vulnerability: how women work harder to stay in office.** By Jeffrey Lazarus and Amy Steigerwalt. *Michigan,* 2018. 226p bibl index, 9780472130719 $70.00, 9780472123599

Lazarus and Steigerwalt (both Georgia State) offer a theory of gendered vulnerability that drives the behavior of women in Congress. Women are more likely to think their seat is at risk even if it is not by traditional measures, and they face different barriers that men do in the electoral environment. Because women perceive they are vulnerable to defeat, they emphasize different priorities while they are in office. Women in Congress spend more time doing constituency service; they bring home more pork barrel spending; they sponsor more bills and resolutions; and they more closely represent constituent preferences through proposed legislation and committee assignments. The implications suggest female legislators are better representatives than their male counterparts. This book is a valuable addition to the literature on women and politics, as much of that literature focuses more on getting elected and less on what women do once they are elected. The authors' most significant contribution is their analysis of gender differences in constituent work, which does not rely on self-reporting. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


This useful and informative collection of essays by eminent feminist historians of philosophy helps demonstrate the role played by women thinkers (and the occasional male supporter like François Poulain de la Barre) in helping construct emerging conceptions of liberty—political, moral, and metaphysical—in the early modern period. The concern of women philosophers—some better known (for example, Mary Astell, Mary Wollstonecraft, Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway) and others given exposure herein (Catharine Cockburn, Émilie Du Châtelet, Sophie De Grouchy, Catharine Macauley)—for a fair presentation of the place of women in home and society helped bring forth developing notions of autonomy, liberty, and rational agency that would become hallmarks of Enlightenment thought. These philosophers' interaction with the thought of Descartes and Locke—and to a lesser extent with that of Hobbes and Leibniz—receives considerable attention. These carefully researched essays will enrich all readers' understanding of early modern philosophy, and those interested in social contract theory, moral theory, and metaphysics of free will be especially rewarded. A helpful biographical appendix gives brief vitae of those examined in the essays. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

6. **APA handbook of the psychology of women: v.1: History, theory, and battlegrounds; v.2: Perspectives on women's private and public lives.** Ed. by Cheryl B. Travis and Jacquelyn W. White. *American Psychological Association,* 2018. 2v bibl index, 9781433827921 $395.00

This 2-volume set, the 26th installment in APA's "Handbooks in Psychology" series, is the first handbook to exclusively address the psychology of women. This work should be considered the authoritative reference on the psychology of women, reviewing the theory, science, and practice. In the first volume (History, Theory and Battlegrounds), various authors describe the emergence of the field with a careful analysis of the history of feminist constructs and scholarship, feminist critiques of existing scholarship, and innovative methodologies—overall, a rich representation of the history of psychology as it was influenced by the women's movement and feminism. The authors are leaders in this development, or very close to the first generation of feminist scholars. The second volume (Perspectives on Women's Private and Public Lives) presents thorough summaries of research on well-being, gender and sexual orientation, aggression in intimate relationships, clinical perspectives in therapy, stereotyping in health
care, research bias, leadership, career challenges, global issues, and human rights. This handbook demonstrates the extensive scholarship on women’s experience and feminist theories as it applies to research, training, and practice. Its publication marks a significant shift in the field of psychology over the last 50 years, as researchers and clinicians have developed a new schema for understanding the psychology of women, and ultimately for all human beings. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

7. Where no black woman has gone before: subversive portrayals in speculative film and TV. Mafe, Diana Adesola. Texas, 2018. 173p bibl index, 9781477315224 $85.00, 9781477315231 $27.95
With skill and precision, Mafe (Denison Univ.) has crafted a significant work on black women in American and British science fiction film and television. Mafe begins her discussion by acknowledging that Nichelle Nichols, who played the character Uhura in Star Trek, is one of the first black female actors to contribute to science fiction. The author uses Nichols’s contribution as an entry point to examine black female science fiction actors who appear in 28 Days Later (2002), AVP: Alien vs. Predator (2004), Children of Men (2006), and Beasts of the Southern Wild (2012), along with two television series, Firefly (2002) and Doctor Who: Series 3 (2007). Mafe specifically addresses how these women replicate and subvert stereotypes of black femininity, in so doing expanding representations of black femininity, and she dissects how “characters are imagined through speculative fiction,” as she writes in the introduction. Mafe employs a psychoanalytic approach to evaluate and examine how these characters instantiate the black female’s subject position in this genre. An important contribution to the discourse surrounding black women’s contributions to cinema, this is a must read for those interested in, among other things, science fiction, black femininity, postcolonial studies, gender and feminist studies, cultural studies, race and science fiction, and cultural history. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

8. Just one of the boys: female-to-male cross-dressing on the American variety stage. Rodger, Gillian M. Illinois, 2018. 242p bibl index, 9780252041518 $95.00, 9780252083150 $28.00, 9780252050169 $25.20
Just One of the Boys is a fitting complement to Rodger’s first book, Champagne Charlie and Pretty Jemima (CH, Dec’10, 48-1984), a superb overview study of variety amusements on 19th-century American stages. That earlier volume drew attention to amusement forms aimed largely at urban, working-class, white male audiences, noting how these entertainments provide a window into a changing society impacted by class, ethnicity, gender, and economics. As a musicologist, Rodger (Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) is especially sensitive to sheet music and other sources (such as reviews) that provide specific insight into performance methods and onstage interpretations of popular songs. Whereas Rodger’s first book is more general in its coverage, this second book delves deeply into the lives and careers of significant male impersonators, looking at reasons for their popularity (in both the US and the UK) and analyzing the types of songs included in their repertoires. This study is most enlightening in its chapters on performers—in particular Annie Hindle, the first male impersonator on the US stage, and Ella Wesner, a performer prominent in the US theatrical world. Serious students of variety entertainment will find much to delight them in Rodger’s impeccably researched and explicated work, the earlier volume as well as this one. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.
9. A queerly joyful noise : choral musicking for social justice. Balén, Julia. Rutgers, 2017. 211p bibl index, 9780813588391 $95.00, 9780813588384 $24.95, 9780813588414 $24.95
Balén (California State Univ., Channel Islands) brings to this monograph her background in comparative cultural and literary studies plus almost 30 years of singing in queer choruses, and she draws on archival work and some 50 interviews. Her primary question, as stated in the appendix, is “Why and how have LGBTIQA people been making strategic use of choral musicking for social justice?” Balén begins with a comparative discussion of queer choral musicking in the labor movement in the early 20th century and the Civil Rights Movement, narrowing to important contemporary queer social institutions that seek to create community and foster social justice: Pride festivals, queer community centers, Gay Games, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The focus then turns to an overview of queer choruses—their histories and characteristics—and how they have created counterstories that queer culture and expand choral singing. The final part addresses the importance of emotion, even erotics, for an understanding of singing’s power, particularly as it emerges in queer choral musicking to support evolving identity formation, including healing or healthy identities. Very readable yet grounded in theoretical ideas, the book lifts up a complex intersection of joyful celebration and political resistance. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

10. Hysterical! : women in American comedy. ed. by Linda Mizejewski and Victoria Sturtevant. Texas, 2017. 454p bibl index, 9781477314517 $95.00, 9781477314524 $34.95, 9781477314531 $34.95
In Hysterical!, Mizejewski (womens, gender, and sexuality studies, Ohio State Univ.) and Sturtevant (film and media studies, Univ. of Oklahoma) unleash women acting out and acting up, women crossing borders. Essays cover comic women ranging from boisterous silent film stars such as Mabel Normand to stand-up cringe comedians such as Lena Dunham. These unruly comics employ humor not only as a communication tool but also as a political weapon. The defensive introduction may protest too much about women being funny, but the essays themselves are laudatory as critical studies. Whether looking at Lucille Ball as reinvented trickster, Sarah Silverman’s aesthetic of cuteness, or the amazing auteur contributions of showrunner Tina Fey, this catalog of phenomenally talented comic women pleases and inspires. Of particular worth are Joanna Rapf’s unveiling of the rowdy spunk of neglected silent film star Fay Tincher and Kristen Anderson Wagner’s showcasing of gawky Ziegfeld Follies’s Fanny Brice, who wedded ethnic beauty and clowning. Some conflating of feminist and queer theories with superiority theories of laughter, privileging transgressive laughter, moves several essays into polemics, subversively hinting that it is not women who are not funny but academics. Nevertheless, this worthy historical study of female comedians both instructs and delights. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

11. Set the world on fire : black nationalist women and the global struggle for freedom. Blain, Keisha N. Pennsylvania, 2018. 255p index, 9780812249880 $34.95, 9780812294774 $34.95
Historian Blain (Univ. of Pittsburgh) sheds new light on the black nationalist movement by viewing the story through the lens of prominent female activists. She demonstrates how such figures as Mittie Maude Lena Gordon, Celia Jane Allen, Amy Jacques Garvey, and other notable activists who were followers of Marcus Garvey tested and redefined the traditional nature of their (gender) roles within the movement and eventually sustained leadership positions. Blain reexamines the previous historical time line of declining black nationalism by determining such eras as the Great Depression, WW II, and parts of the Cold War as powerful and important times for the movement. The author does an excellent job of exposing truths as well as touching on certain complexities of black nationalism. One problematic issue
involves the Back to Africa concept seemingly supported by white nationalists, an odd but somewhat shared theme. Activist women tested the boundaries of traditional civil rights views and redefined the narrative. Blain complements their struggle by redefining the historical notation on the subject and bringing their story to life. For most readers interested in feminism, civil rights, and African American, political, and social history. Summing Up: Recommended. All academic levels/libraries.


In this volume, Monteiro (sociology and anthropology, Concordia Univ.) examines haptic hardware design, app design, and social media behaviors in tandem with the textile arts to present a creative and unique proposition: that the way we use everyday technology shares characteristics with textile and needlecraft culture. As might be expected given the author's thesis, the well-documented historical connection between the invention of the jacquard loom and computer coding is detailed. However, the author delves much deeper into this connection by pointing out that the skills required for needlecraft—manual dexterity and pattern recognition, for example—are similar to swiping and tapping on smartphones and tablets. In addition, Monteiro argues that our construction of many everyday computing terms such as zip files, software patches, and threaded discussions illustrates the overlooked relationships between digital communications and textile culture. By presenting a well-researched history of textile labor, gendered domestic needlecraft, and the development of computer technology, Monteiro succeeds in constructing a description of the political and social scope of our relationship with handheld computing technology. This unique history adds a new dimension to the history of computing and communication studies. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.


In this richly referenced book on female science writers in the 19th century, Larsen (Central Connecticut State Univ.) provides information on popular science writing in general while specifically focusing on books written by women. Most of the women described here are not well known (with some notable exceptions, such as Mary Somerville) and most were either British or Americans from New England. Their books almost always utilized a question-answer format or were written as conversations between female teachers and mothers to curious children. Some were used as textbooks. Many matters are addressed, including the coexistence of religion and science in many of the science books written at the time for women, children, and uneducated men. In the 19th-century US, there was little concern for proper attribution of authorship for foreign texts. Botany was considered an acceptable field of study for women, especially because many observations required no specialized equipment or laboratory. This volume focuses specifically on subjects less acceptable for study by women: geology, mineralogy, and chemistry. Rarely, some of these texts were well received; for example, Jane Marcet’s Conversations on Chemistry helped inspire a young Michael Faraday. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.


For many, "women on the home front" calls WW II readily to mind, but in the US and Europe, it was during WW I that women first took on crucial military, manufacturing, and technical roles. Several monographs explore British women's contributions, including Airth-Kindree's Munitionettes (1987),
Braybon’s Women Workers in the First World War (1989), and Grayzel’s Women’s Identities at War (1999). However, despite works such as Aubin and Goldstein’s The War of Guns and Mathematics (CH, Apr’15, 52-4262), there is much still to tell of women’s participation in the workforce as scientists and mathematicians. Similarly, histories of women’s suffrage in Britain often tend toward biography or take the long view. Fara (Univ. of Cambridge) marks the simultaneous centennials of armistice and suffrage by highlighting the overlap between the suffrage movement and women’s war work in STEM fields. Not all women workers lobbied for the vote, but all struggled to have their professional efforts taken seriously. They engaged in myriad activities, from health and medicine to education and espionage. Fara thoroughly documents her research, but her prose is accessible to nonspecialists. Her organizational choice to structure some chapters as thematic and some as biographical, however, is puzzling. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.

15. The toxic meritocracy of video games: why gaming culture is the worst. Paul, Christopher A. Minnesota, 2018. 245p gameography index, 9781517900403 $108.00, 9781517900410 $27.00
A communications professor and lifelong gamer, Paul (Seattle Univ.) offers a compelling and carefully supported argument to deconstruct and reconsider meritocracy in video game culture. Paul begins the book with a definition and history of meritocracy in Western culture in general, then goes on to examine how this meritocracy manifests in video games and game design. Through analysis of over 100 popular video games in addition to his own personal experiences, interviews, research studies, and news reports, Paul contends that contemporary video games and game design, focused on meritocracy, empower misogyny, racism, and homophobia among predominantly white male gamers. The final chapter focuses on developing solutions to the issues arising from meritocracy within mainstream culture, taking cues from sports and higher education as well as from the internal culture of gamers. Ultimately, Paul would like video game culture to foster a more diverse, inclusive, and mindful culture. An engaging read, though it may be a little too dense for a general readership. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

16. Female philanthropy in the interwar world: between self and other. Colpus, Eve. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. 291p bibl index, 9781474259682 $114.00, 9781474259699 $27.00
Colpus (history, Univ. of Southampton, UK) focuses on language to analyze what she identifies in the introduction as the "selfhood and social engagement ... in women's philanthropic practice." Narrowing her study to four British women (Evangeline Booth, Lettice Fisher, Emily Kinnaird, Muriel Paget) active in the period between the world wars, Colpus attempts to discern how they created identities for themselves as women, philanthropists, members of a specific social class, and workers. To counteract the Lady Bountiful image, she examines closely what each of the four women said and how that intersected with what she did. Colpus posits that through their speeches, lectures, and actions, the women who engaged in interwar philanthropic endeavors revealed "historical and social change" and an ability to navigate spaces between "tradition and modernity" and so can help explain not only the shift in charitable work that occurred after WW I but also the trends in the late 20th and 21st centuries as practitioners contend with the depersonalizing effects of bureaucracies. Colpus makes use of personal archives, newspapers, journals, and a wide array of secondary sources, all of which help support her compelling study of these women, their work, and what it meant in its time. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Abrams contributes a substantive study of the first three (precedent-setting) First Ladies (a term not coined until the mid-19th century). With their disparate backgrounds and personalities these women helped shape an undefined, unpaid, sometimes overlooked position into a position of influence and consequence. Personal connections abounded among the three—although Abigail and Dolley never met, Abigail and Martha developed a lasting friendship, and Martha may have encouraged Dolley's marriage to Madison. Abrams skillfully reinterprets surviving correspondence, building on the work of historians such as Catherine Allgor, Holly Shulman, and Rosemarie Zagarri. The author points out that the three First Ladies were politically pragmatic historical agents acting within the limited public and private dimensions then accorded even well-placed women. All three left traditional domestic roles out of necessity. All three had stronger relationships with their spouses than with their own children and enjoyed long marriages. The author corrects earlier historians' hopeful interpretations by pointing out that neither Abigail nor Dolley was a precursor to modern feminism. Although the often-admirable Abigail opposed the institution of slavery as incompatible with US liberty, she reflected her time with her sometimes patronizing and racist attitudes. Earnest, balanced, insightful, well researched, and browsable, this is a rich source of information. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

18. **Women's experiences of repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe**, Routledge studies in the history of Russia and Eastern Europe, 28. by Kelly Hignett et al. Routledge, 2018. 196p bibl index, 9781138046924 $170.00, 9781315162393 $54.95

Each of the four substantial chapters in this book surveys a different country (the Soviet Union, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, and Romania) during its most repressive period, and each deals with different aspects of the subject and at the same time emphasizes the impact of repression on victims' wives and children. The chapters vary not only in time frame and geography, but also in the availability of sources. The ones on the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia draw on a panoply of archival material, memoirs, and secondary work that illuminates the experience of repression; the chapters on Lithuania and Romania rely on limited resources, and the authors make do with introducing English-speaking students to the Lithuanian and Romanian experiences and demonstrating the need for more research in the field. Melanie Illic’s discussion of the USSR covers familiar material, so it will be most useful to undergraduates. Hignett’s discussion of the Czech case is more interesting, and along with the chapters on Romania and Lithuania, it will mean more to more advanced scholars. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and graduate students.


Bringing together ideas that are often thought to be incongruent, Zwissler (philosophy and religion, Central Michigan Univ.) discusses individuals who have deep commitments to religion but also to feminism and activism. Zwissler discusses activism as progressive political engagement, though in the current political climate, the common assumption is that progressive political causes do not mix well with institutional religion, and that those who are religious and interested in political activism will back politically conservative causes. The author starts by surveying the waves of feminism and discussing whether religion has or has not been part of those movements; she then offers an overview of the intersection between feminism and institutional religion. In the rest of the book Zwissler discusses her
participant communities—women who see their progressive political activism as religiously motivated—and sets them in their particular contexts. She discusses the cosmology of these activists in terms of the claims they make about the way the world and human relationships should work. Their understandings of interconnection inform the ways in which they view and do their own work. Offering a wealth of information, this accessible book is well suited to classroom use as well as secondary reading. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

20. **Cultivating femininity: women and tea culture in Edo and Meiji Japan.** Corbett, Rebecca. Hawai‘i, 2018. 189p bibl index, 9780824872076 $68.00

It is common knowledge that although the tea ceremony originally developed within samurai culture in the Warring States era (1467–1567), in Japan today the majority of practitioners of the ceremony are women. Young women study tea as a form of bridal training, a means of learning discipline, etiquette, and manners. Corbett (Japanese studies librarian, USC) deconstructs the narrative propagated by the hereditary schools of tea that such schools were the instruments through which Japanese women first practiced tea after the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Through careful study of a broad range of sources (manuscripts by tea masters, commercial advice manuals, and popular literary works) from the Edo period (1603–1868), Corbett shows that women were already frequent participants in tea gatherings in that period, and that practice of tea by women was one of the many ways in which status boundaries were blurred in the decades preceding the Meiji Restoration. Moreover, tea had already come to be associated with an ideal femininity. This fine account of the practice of tea in early modern Japan thus also contributes to understanding of the gendered aspects of the transition from Edo to Meiji Japan. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

**August 2018 Reviews**

1. **The psychology of sex and gender.** Jennifer K. Bosson, Joseph A. Vendello, and Camille E. Buckner.
SAGE Publishing, 2018. 356p bibl index, 9781506331324 $45.00, 9781544310398

Bosson, Vandello (both, Univ. of South Florida) and Buckner (Marymount Univ.) have created an undergraduate survey textbook covering almost all current topics now being used in courses relating to sex and gender. Starting with terminology, then research methods (mentioning the strengths and weaknesses of each term and research method), they proceed to describe the areas studied in the field, devoting a chapter to each topic. These include nature/nurture theories for the etiology and development of sex/gender differences and similarities (with evidence for and against each theory); gender stereotypes; sexism and discrimination; cognitive, personality, and emotional differences and similarities; language (verbal and non-verbal) by and about the genders; sexual orientation; social networks; marriage; labor divisions; physical and mental health; and finally aggression. As a textbook, The Psychology of Sex and Gender contains many photographs, tables, figures, graphs, and learning guides; a summary and concluding information bookend each chapter. The text encourages the student to move beyond passive reading into active thinking. This volume is best suited to undergraduate classes in psychology and related fields. Summing Up: Recommended. Undergraduates.
2. LGBT psychology and mental health: emerging research and advances. ed. by Richard Ruth and Erik Santacruz. Praeger, 2017. 283p bibl index, 9781440843372 $60.00, 9781440843389
The psychology field has a troubled history when it comes to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender fluid communities. The field also is guilty of conducting research with a majority of economically privileged white subjects. Editors Ruth (George Washington Univ.) and Santacruz (Children's National Medical Center) assemble voices from significant LGBT psychology contributors, borrowing inspiration from racial, feminist, and queer theory frameworks. This book represents a departure from the past, pointing out previous misconceptions and affirming the growing push for inclusiveness in psychology. The editors term it a "coming out coming of age." The first chapter presents powerful biographical narratives from the editors themselves, each detailing early experiences as a gay male living an intersectional life. Their experiences are closely linked to the goals of this collection of essays: give the underrepresented and underexplored LGBT voice and breadth within psychology and mental health. Topics mindfully explored include trans-inclusiveness and trans-affirmation, gender fluidity, diversity, intersectionality, LGBT people of color and microaggressions, new addiction and substance abuse treatment methods, topics in health disparities, emerging health policies, and a chapter on a health graduate program curriculum that examines culturally competent health care to combat LGBT health disparities. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

3. Thriving in an all-boys club: female police and their fight for equality. Rabe-Hemp, Cara E. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 207p bibl index, 9781442274297 $38.00, 9781442274303 $36.00
Rabe-Hemp (Illinois State University) uses women’s firsthand accounts, media stories, and academic research to present the experiences of women in the US police force in the 1980s, 1990s, and present day. She weaves together the structural forms of inequality that women face in a nontraditional occupation—harassment, gatekeeping for sex segregation, barriers to advancement, etc. along with the cultural stereotypes of gender and motherhood that serve as barriers for women in police work. Rabe-Hemp explores how the field of police work has changed over the decades and how gendered conceptions impacted and were impacted by those changes. Importantly, the author contributes to academic discussions of the social construction of gender at work and how those conceptions trace back to some of the earliest examples of women in police work. Written in an accessible format, Roth-Hemp’s book blends an academic analysis of a highly gendered occupation with concrete advice and recommendations for women and men in police work. Summing Up: Recommended. General collections, lower-division undergraduates, and professionals.

What is feminism when it meets power? That question dominates this book as it asks what is “governance feminism,” or the set of beliefs that define mainstream feminism from the perspective of what has been enacted into law and what has obtained governing legitimacy. The first half of the book is authored by Halley (Harvard) and describes the split between liberal-versus-dominance and cultural feminism. The discussion here is an excellent overview of the contrasting views on feminism and what the differences mean both theoretically and from an institutional perspective. The first third of the book looks at what areas of law feminism has transformed. The remainder is international, exploring feminism and rape laws in India, sex trafficking in Israel, and abortion and gender selection, mostly in the US. Overall, the book delivers a good summary of which feminist theories have prevailed and can be
seen as the governing ones. Excellent for collections on feminism and women’s rights. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Alice Childress, Alberta Hill, Tarika Lewis, Gayle Dickson, Tiamoyo Tosheleza Karenga, and Gwendolyn Patton are just a few of the black women who disrupted traditional hegemonic frameworks yet whose stories remained untold. For decades, the threat and danger to black womanhood has been the “single story.” Within a male-controlled and male-centered reality, black women have been marginalized, silenced, and nearly invisible. This in-depth study by Farmer (African American studies, Boston Univ.) depicts strides against sexism, racism, and classism that black women from all walks of life made to blaze pathways toward freedom. Hidden behind the banner of liberation was the assumption that power and self-advocacy meant affirming both black manhood and womanhood, and a new generation of black women activists arose. The intellectual production of essays, handbooks, position papers, fashion, artwork, and speeches from 1945 to ‘79 amplified women’s daily activism with their own multifaceted identities and narratives. Reading 30 years later about the local and international seeds these revolutionary women planted puts in perspective how the field of intersectionality developed. This text reveals how black women have continued to be central figures in challenging long-standing social injustices. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

6. LGBTQ events 2nd ed. ed. by Robert C. Evans. Salem Press/Grey House, 2018. 2v bibl indexes, 9781682175910 $175.00, 9781682175927
The dozen years since the first edition was published (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1848–2006, 2007) have seen a watershed in the history of these people, with their unions now receiving legal blessing in many countries and even religious blessings by increasingly mainstream denominations. The articles in this excellent work are well written, and the inclusion of “Key Figures” at the beginning of each is very helpful. The book has several indexes and tables of content. It is amply illustrated with photographs, posters, and other art work. The references for further reading are extensive without being overwhelming. The boxes with quotations from landmark publications are worth exploring. The list of contributors is impressive, although most seem to be affiliated with North American institutions. That being said, events on the international scene do seem to get their share of coverage. There is also good coverage of racial and ethnic diversity within the LGBTQ community. There is an electronic edition, which hopefully is being updated routinely. The day that encyclopedias, like this one, should appear only in electronic format is fast approaching. Summing Up: Essential. All public and undergraduate libraries.

Watson (Northwestern) begins Scarlet A by noting that abortion is surprisingly common; roughly 30 percent of American women 45 or older have had one or more abortions. Yet despite this, she notes, the contemporary American discussion of abortion is toxic, and the practice is widely stigmatized. Watson is a bioethicist and a lawyer, and she seeks to contribute to the debate over abortion by offering reasoned, balanced arguments. She outlines how abortion is practiced in the US—an issue often overlooked. Then, drawing on judicial opinions, she explores the vocabulary used in discussing abortion, noting that words do not merely express views, they also serve to shape them. With this in hand she
addresses the ethics of abortion. Her discussion is based on the fact that abortion is legal in the US, and so she moves away from talking about "rights" (which she regards as a settled issue) to "the right thing to do." Engagingly written, and replete with examples, this is an excellent addition to the extensive literature on abortion. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals.

This book’s subtitle promises an examination of contemporary misogyny. Manne (philosophy, Cornell) surmises that women are still implicitly required to serve as laborers—emotionally, physically, psychologically—in ways most men are not. She distinguishes between sexism and misogyny: misogyny upholds patriarchal social norms whereas sexism justifies them. Manne disagrees with labeling misogyny “dehumanizing,” arguing that women must be viewed as human to fulfill their expected role of givers. But her thesis seems reliant on an ontological humanism (the recognition of other minds) rather than a Kantian moral position of the autonomous self. Manne covers a wide expanse of current events, including Donald Trump’s misogyny, Mike Pence’s religious antiabortion position, and the misogynistic treatment of Hillary Clinton during the 2016 election. But at times, Manne seems to be preaching to the choir, so the book can seem more partisan than philosophical. Writing before the #Metoo movement, the author describes the “testimony injustice,” the marginalized experience because of an “economy of credibility” that predetermines some as more trustworthy than others when it comes to sexual assault (this leads to “himpathy”). In the conclusion, Manne writes “So I give up.” Perhaps future editions will address the current shift toward holding sexual assailters accountable. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

9. Liberal Christianity and women’s global activism: the YWCA of the USA and the Maryknoll Sisters. Izzo, Amanda L. Rutgers, 2018. 275p bibl index, 9780813588483 $99.95, 9780813588476 $28.95, 9780813588490 $28.95
Historian Izzo (women’s and gender studies, St. Louis Univ., MO) explores the intersection between women and liberal faith communities in global activism. She moves past male, Protestant, and conservative faith communities and recentralizes cross-denominationalism. Izzo suggests that her study crosses three different angles of faith history and gender history. First, she examines the role of both Catholic and Protestant women in Christian political life. Second, she looks beyond conservative Christianity in exploring the role of liberal Christian activism. Third, Izzo explores the persistent goal of women’s faith communities in establishing similar global communities overseas. Her narrative is told through the examples of the Protestant YWCA and Catholic religious order of Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic. Izzo argues that their larger goals focused less on evangelization and more on pluralism and global fellowship, which allowed them to support such groups as the United Nations and labor organizations. In concentrating on the 1960s and 1970s, Izzo argues that her study helps connect the dots between feminism and liberal religious women’s activism. By studying the YWCA and Maryknoll Sisters together, readers can see how the two groups merged in sentiment and worked toward common goals in the global activism that so defined this time period. Summing Up: Recommended. All public and academic levels/libraries.

Griffith (Washington Univ.), also author of Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity (CH, Feb'05, 42-3358), offers a wide-ranging, panoramic history of the relationship between American Christians and public debates about sexual morality in the 20th and early 21st centuries. The author shows that despite the changing focus of concerns—from sexually explicit literature in the early 20th century, to birth control in the middle part of the century, to sex education in public schools and abortion, to gay rights and same-sex marriage in more recent years—debates in the Christian tradition about sexual morality share common themes, among them preservation of the traditional order of the family, the "dignity" of women, and the rights of Christians to educate their own people. By treating a variety of topics, Griffiths clearly reveals the ways in which patterns of thought appear and are transformed in various debates across time. This book is well informed, carefully researched, and accessible. Nonspecialists will be able to follow the narrative with ease, and specialists will appreciate the book's overarching analytical clarity. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

11. Humanism challenges materialism in economics and economic history. ed. by Roderick Floud, Santhi Hejeebu, and David Mitch. Chicago, 2017. 276p index, 9780226429588 $65.00, 9780226429618 $65.00

This collection of essays celebrates Deirdre McCloskey as a colleague, scholar, and teacher. Her work ranges widely, from rhetoric in the social sciences to statistical significance and historical economics. This reviewer uses the present tense because there is no evidence that McCloskey is slowing down and, like Kenneth Arrow or Paul Samuelson, it might be necessary to prepare another festschrift in 10 or 20 years. As the title suggests, all of the articles except for one focus on McCloskey's most recent work, her three volumes on the origins of modern economic growth (CH, Jun'90, 27-6065),(CH, Nov'06, 44-1643),(CH, Oct'16, 54-0926). Two essays deserve special mention. First, "Queering McCloskey's Feminism in Location and History," by Robin L. Bartlett, is essential reading for any economist who wants to connect economics with wider currents in social science and the humanities. Second, Steven E. Landsburg's "McCloskey at Chicago" stands out as a heartfelt tribute to a McCloskey's role as a mentor inside and outside the classroom. More generally, the editors deserve credit for the uniformly high quality of the essays and the thorough introduction they provide at the beginning of the volume. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

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Morris (gender and women's studies, Berkeley) and Withers (fellow, Univ. of Sussex, UK) provide a thematic history of the women's movement in a text that is part visual anthology and part textbook. Despite largely focusing on feminist manifestations in the US and Britain, the authors take pains to incorporate international sources and events, most significantly through their inclusion of an array of visual sources—such as stamps, posters, flyers, and buttons—from countries including South Africa, Russia, China, Australia, Greece, and Belgium. The authors begin by discussing the movement and how it was mobilized, the movement's political and ideological commitments, and feminism's strong ties to the Civil Rights Movement and activism by women-of-color. Next, the authors tackle women's reclamation of the physical and mental treatment of the body, sexuality and lesbian feminism, culture and the
workplace, publishing and media, music and the arts, and the antiwar and antinuclear proliferation debates. They close with a discussion of the radicalization and fragmentation of the movement and the implications for the education of the next generation of feminists. Including a foreword by Roxane Gay, this text provides an excellent and engaging introduction to the feminist movement. Summing Up: Essential. Public, general, and undergraduate levels/libraries.

2. Gender in the twenty-first century: the stalled revolution and the road to equality. ed. by Shannon N. Davis, Sarah Winslow, and David J. Maume. California, 2017. 295p bibl index, 9780520291386 $85.00, 9780520291393 $34.95, 9780520965188
According to the editors, the purpose of the book is to examine how "gender affects our social interactions and our social institutions which, in turn, influence our everyday lives." It is not exactly breaking news that societies place different expectations on boys and girls, or that gender, as opposed to sex, is socially constructed, and that gender differences can lead to gender inequality. The articles are thoroughly researched and present a convincing picture of many societal institutions, such as family, education, work, religion, the military, and sports, while also considering gender politics as they affect various segments of society, such as corporate America, health care, and immigration, to name a few. The book's strength is its in-depth analysis of the contemporary US; the unscripted and sometimes hidden ways in which gender impacts male and female lives are described in illuminating detail. The chapter on gay rodeos in Texas, especially, presents gender issues in an innovative way. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers/faculty.

Even in today's world, black women intellectuals suffer multiple discrimination from the public at large as well as in academe. Put down by both white society and black males, the women in this collection devoted their professional activities to having their voices heard. In her introduction, editor Williams discusses the shameful lack of research and recognition on and about African American women intellectuals, offering solid and informative comments to each of the 14 selections. Beginning with African American feminist abolitionists, such as Maria Stewart and Sojourner Truth, and continuing to recently retired Michelle Howard, the first female four-star admiral, the subjects include distinguished academics, authors and poets, and social and political organizers. All the chapters have extensive notes and bibliography for further reference. While the majority of the essays are from historians, authors also include specialists from literature, American studies, and women's studies. The subjects are an eclectic mix, ranging from the well-known Ida B. Wells and Maya Angelou to the more obscure Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and Wanda Coleman. The editor has been as inclusive as possible, though this reviewer would have enjoyed an essay on activist-author Bebe Moore Campbell (1950–2006). Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

4. Memory, meaning, and resistance: reflecting on oral history and women at the margins. Buss, Fran Leeper. Michigan, 2017. 210p bibl index, 9780472073597 $70.00, 9780472053599 $24.95, 9780472123056
Oral histories are an essential part of literature as well as history. This collection of oral histories conducted 1976–2016 about women who live at the margins of society is nothing short of wonderful. The author has done an excellent job interviewing women, obtaining information that shows readers lives and struggles most people would find difficult to fathom. Clearly, Buss gained her interviewees'
5. **Black women’s mental health: balancing strength and vulnerability.** Ed. by Stephanie Y. Evans, Kanika Bell, and Nsenga K. Burton. SUNY Press, 2017. 307p bibl index, 9781438465814 $85.00, 9781438465838

Evans, Bell (both, Clark Atlanta Univ.), and Burton (Univ. of Georgia) present a broad conceptualization of mental health in this wide-ranging text. Readers are encouraged to think of mental health not in terms of specific diagnostic classifications but as a transformative experience necessary to counter longstanding detrimental and stereotyped views of Black women. This work is filled with personal reflections from holistic, womanist/feminist, and interdisciplinary approaches designed to advance an emotional healing process for all forms of disenfranchisement experienced by Black women, ranging from individual experiences of trauma and degradation to ongoing social constraints, including racism, sexism, and economic marginalization. The implication is that feeling good physically and spiritually will result in good mental health, and that mental health is a vital element in overall health. A central theme of the book is the image of the "strong Black woman," a paradox that highlights legitimate emotional strengths while simultaneously obscuring and stigmatizing vulnerabilities. The value of acknowledging this paradox lies in meeting mental health needs, which remain hidden and ignored when Black women are expected to remain strong and not encouraged to seek assistance. The contributors stress the importance of culturally competent mental health practitioners who acknowledge intersecting, contextual identities. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty, and practitioners; general readers.

6. **Legally straight: sexuality, childhood, and the cultural value of marriage.** Rollins, Joe. New York University, 2018. 193p index, 9780814775981 $50.00, 9781479812585

This book provides excellent interdisciplinary insight on the historical, rhetorical, religious, cultural, social, political, economic, stereotypical, and legal aspects of how American marriage laws gradually expanded from 1971 until 2015 to include same-gender couples without impinging on opposite-gender couples' ability to marry. Rollins (Queens College) closely examines arguments raised by proponents and defendants, as well as the details of published opinions of state and federal appellate courts pivotal to impacting final decisions by the US Supreme Court. His legal research is similar to that at the core of his previous book, AIDS and the Sexuality of Law (CH, Sep’04, 42-607). Rollins’s reference notes point to specific testimony delivered by pro-heteronormative legal teams critical to yielding judicial decisions in favor of the opposition’s expansionary goals for LGBTQ citizens. The nuances of these detailed judicial opinions become fuel for future research on public policy, civil rights, jurisprudence, and questions of unforeseen consequences when putting experts into a courtroom. Although this book incorporates courtroom legal jargon, overall it is very accessible to undergraduates. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.
7. **No place like home: lessons in activism from LGBT Kansas.** Janovy, C. J. University Press of Kansas, 2018. 297p bibl index, 9780700625284 $29.95, 9780700625291
Janovy (Kansas City Public Radio) offers an exceptional portrayal of LGBT activism in Kansas and LGBT folks who proudly claim the state as their home. The book is organized into four parts. Part 1 depicts the personal and political losses LGBT persons encountered in Kansas during the early 2000s. Part 2 outlines the revival of LGBT activism within Kansas, with activists developing new alliances, goals, and targets. Part 3 describes additional losses alongside minor victories (e.g., establishing gay-straight alliances in high schools) and learning from past mistakes (e.g., the error of including sexual orientation, but not gender identity, in proposed nondiscrimination ordinances). And part 4 discusses an evolving acceptance of LGBT persons and current LGBT successes in municipalities across the state. This exquisitely written book captures the experiences and emotions of everyday activists and shows how politics informs personal lives (e.g., when a city council vote can make a LGBT person feel un/accepted within a community). This work reveals how losses regarding pro-LGBT policies and protections “in the long game, often built to victories.” A riveting, insightful love letter to Kansas’s unsung LGBT heroes.
Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Boko Haram came to the world’s attention in 2014 when Muslim insurgents kidnapped 276 girls from a school in Chibok, in northeastern Nigeria. The global response included the #BringBackOurGirls movement, which managed both to fetishize the girls and obscure the grievances of their abductors against the state, whose population also includes large populations of increasingly Pentecostal Christians in the south. Matfess’s narrative is nuanced and complex. She traces the evolution of Boko Haram from peaceful protest movement determined to root out “false Muslims” and establish a “pure” Islamic state to violent opponent of an oppressive state determined to crush the insurgency. Her focus is the experience of women and girls, both those victimized by Boko Haram and those who saw in the movement the opportunity to improve their status, contribute to decision-making, and find some space (however limited) for expression denied to most women in broader Nigerian society. Many readers, Matfess admits, will find this interpretation discomforting, even unbelievable. Understanding gender politics and empowering women, however, are key to solving not just violence in Nigeria but also to stabilizing other post-conflict African and world societies. An important book deserving a wide audience.
Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

9. **The queer fantasies of the American family sitcom.** Pugh, Tison. Rutgers, 2018. 246p bibl index, 9780813591728 $99.95, 9780813591711 $28.95, 9780813591735 $28.95
Family sitcoms have been a staple of American television since the 1950s. Most of them entertain, on multiple levels, younger audiences as well as parents. They cover timely social issues and interpersonal dynamics of families. While there has been research into the deeper effects of the family sitcom on viewers, this study covers the subtle sexual dynamics of hetero-normalcy and homosexuality in six popular sitcoms from 1957 to the present day. Leave It to Beaver, The Brady Bunch, The Cosby Show, Roseanne, Hannah Montana, and Modern Family are covered in separate chapters. Networks and society have altered what is considered “family appropriate” over time. Studies show homosexual characters on television make viewers less prejudiced against a homosexual lifestyle. This book takes an interesting, in-depth look at a rarely researched topic associated with family-hour television. Each program presents a challenge to the overall topic in that some shows avoid the subject of sexuality...
directly but quietly allude to it (Leave It to Beaver), and others intertwine it into the fabric of the plotlines (Modern Family). Recommended for LGBTQ and television history collections.

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.

10. **Russian homophobia from Stalin to Sochi.** Healey, Dan. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. 286p bibl index, 9781350000780 $88.00, 9781350000773 $29.95, 9781350000803

This ambitious, well-sourced, eminently readable volume functions as a corrective to Western LGBTQ scholarship, which treats the sexual subjects of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation as outliers, and as an overview of available archival material regarding the Soviet and Russian queer experience since the mid-century. Healey (Russian history, Oxford) aims to trace the origins and consequences of "modern" Russian homophobia, which he firmly roots in the Stalinist project, in a way that distinguishes it from the critiques of the postcolonial West. The book comprises nine case studies organized into three parts: "Homophobia in Russia after 1945," "Queer Visibility and 'Traditional Sexual Relations,'" and "Writing and Remembering Russia's Queer Past." Attention is given, by choice and necessity, more to male homosexuality and lesbianism, with less focus on bisexual or trans experiences. In particular, Healey is concerned with the genesis of political homophobia that has found new impetus under Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party, the ensuing federal ban on "gay propaganda" enacted in 2013, and the sweeping city council decree in Moscow banning LGBTQ pride parades for a full century. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

11. **The gender effect: capitalism, feminism, and the corporate politics of development.** Moeller, Kathryn. California, 2018. 292p bibl index, 9780520286382 $85.00, 9780520286399 $29.95, 9780520961623

Moeller (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) describes the philanthropic efforts of Nike and other companies to enhance the potential of 250 million adolescent girls in the Third World and reduce poverty. Nike calls this potential "The Girl Effect." Moeller provides details of the financial and research support of philanthropic organizations such as the Nike Foundation, United Nations Global Compact, Clinton Global Initiative, and Business for Social Responsibility to help educate girls in countries such as Brazil. She collected information about the companies and philanthropic organizations from interviews, conferences, research studies, and direct observations of leaders. She suggests that Nike, Goldman Sachs, ExxonMobil, and Walmart have used some of their philanthropic efforts to reduce the negative publicity of some of their questionable business practices. The book is especially interesting for researchers involved in ethnography, feminism, corporate policy making, charitable giving, and the role of capitalism in enhancing and hurting worker conditions. A good portion of the book reads like a case study of Nike’s philanthropic efforts and a diary of what Moeller learned at various conferences. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


The authors of these essays situate the modern origins of sexology/sexual science/sexuality studies (the terms are used more or less interchangeably) within a global rather than a narrowly Eurocentric or Euro-American context. Psychologists, physicians, sociologists, anthropologists, eugenicists, feminists, and Western-oriented nationalists worked in concert across national/colonial boundaries and often embraced sexology as part of a modernizing political agenda. The collection examines developments in
southern Africa, Argentina, Chile, China, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, and elsewhere. Individual authors trace international networks of professionals who discuss such topics as homosexuality and heterosexuality, monogamy, vaginal as opposed to clitoral orgasm, the supposed sexual markers of criminal tendencies, the relevance of ancient erotic texts such as the Kama Sutra for modern sex education, and the relationship of sexual science to feminism, communism, Third World nationalism, and eugenics. Most authors stress the importance of in-country as well as global influences. However, this reviewer shares the disquiet alluded to by Howard Chiang in his afterword (pp. 444–50). In their efforts to highlight contributions to sexology by professionals outside Europe and North America, the authors have all too often paid little attention to the context of colonialism, imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students/faculty/professionals.

This historical overview of the roles of women in the American Revolution is authored by a medical doctor who is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Part 1 discusses women’s involvement from Canada to Pennsylvania; part 2 continues the narrative southward to Georgia. In 19 densely scribed vignettes, 13 of which (chapters 7–19) pertain to the southern theater, Wike marshals an effective, albeit celebratory, narrative that enriches the breadth of scholarship published on this topic over the past quarter century. Though the important contributions of well-known patriots such as Abigail Adams are obviously included, the book’s strength lies in its focus on the "colossal number of ordinary women without whom the symbolic Statue of Liberty would not exist." Wike’s multicultural net captures the multifaceted roles of women—free and enslaved, Patriot and Loyalist, and Native American. Thus, female spies, nurses, cooks, guides, and even soldiers rose to aid the cause. The "Prologue" extends across the Atlantic, detailing the often-overlooked African heritage of Queen Charlotte, spouse of King George III. Occasionally, the density of detail about the war’s operation gets in the way of the women’s story. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above.

This truly impressive work challenges readers’ understanding of the subject in a compelling and entertaining fashion. The author’s exploration of the source material, the known and unknown, draws readers along on a complex narrative that is accessible to novices as well as those familiar with the history of witchcraft. Historian Callow (Univ. of Suffolk, UK) beautifully leads readers through the complexity of this subject matter using court cases, paintings, and television to weave the shifting cultural understanding of witchcraft. From Dürer’s The Four Witches to Disney’s Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the author presents portrayals of witches and how they are perceived throughout time with the detail and insight of an artist. Callow successfully constructs 2,000 years of witchcraft while making the journey almost effortless. His approach and writing bring the historical imagination regarding witches to life while expanding readers’ own notions and perceptions of the history of witchcraft. A refreshing and innovative work for anyone interested the history and future of witches. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All public and academic levels/libraries.
15. Ottoman women during World War I: everyday experiences, politics, and conflict. Metinsoy, Elif Mahir. Cambridge, 2017. 271p bibl index, 9781107198906 $99.00, 9781108196116 $80.00

This book is an essential study of the lives and political influence of rural and urban working-class women in the Ottoman Empire during WW I. In recent years, social historians have been writing increasingly nuanced accounts of the experiences of ordinary Ottoman citizens at the end of the Empire. Until now, however, studies of Ottoman women over this period have focused for the most part on the elite or middle class. This focus has persisted largely because source material relevant to generally illiterate working-class or peasant women has been lacking. But, as Metinsoy (Galatasaray Univ., Turkey) shows in her skillful readings of the petitions that non-elite women sent—via literate intermediaries—to the central bureaucracy, it is nonetheless possible to piece together a narrative of impressions about them. Importantly, Metinsoy does not claim that these documents represent the true voices of ordinary Ottoman women. Rather, she describes how women negotiated—and thereby transformed—a preexisting bureaucratic vocabulary of war, citizenship, and gender on issues as diverse as taxation, domesticity, labor, and military desertion. The book’s contribution is thus twofold: it brilliantly fills a significant historical gap, and it offers an excellent blueprint on how to read source material against the grain. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above.


Although less known in the pages of history, women were vital contributors to the arts of the young US nation. Works by Colonial women are impressive even in the context of present-day technology, and their work can no longer be dismissed as merely “women’s handiwork.” This encyclopedia traces women artists (working in a great variety of forms) from Puritan times to the early 1800s. The biographical information Snodgrass provides is brief and often acts as a tease to learn more about the individual. Women of color as well as white women are included, as are both loyalists (Tories) and patriots. Appendixes list artists by genre and by state. Unfortunately, the lack of illustrations of the art forms does a great disservice to this work. The encyclopedia might have worked better as an ever-changing website that would allow for input from other researchers. Though it is a solid resource for those interested in Colonial women, the book definitely leaves the reader wanting more. It could be a good launch site for American studies term papers. Summing Up: Recommended. With reservations. Lower- and upper-division undergraduates.

17. Her father’s daughter: gender, power, and religion in the early Spanish kingdoms. Pick, Lucy K. Cornell, 2017. 274p bibl index, 9781501714320 $65.00, 9781501714337

In this meticulously researched and carefully argued study, Pick (history of Christianity, Chicago) examines the royal women of the early medieval kingdoms of Léon and Castilla to understand the structures of Iberian monarchical power. Her work challenges the interpretation that women were confined to the private sphere and therefore lacked public power, and builds on recent studies in gender, family, and power. She argues that, as integral parts of familial and religious networks, unmarried royal women exercised power that supported the authority of their fathers and brothers. Using a rich array of sources, including chronicles and cartularies, manuscripts, precious liturgical objects, legal documents, and literature, the author explores inheritance patterns, the roots of religious structures, the women’s networks of piety and patronage, and the role of memory in political power. Pick shows that women, through their unfiltered loyalty to their male relatives, their lordship (domina) of religious properties and institutions, and their roles as conduits to the sacred, were “indispensable” to
the power of the monarchy. She challenges accepted ideas of sacred kingship, showing how royal women engaged the sacred sphere through their gifts, associations, and actions, thereby gaining power that supported monarchical authority. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

June 2018 Reviews

1. Regulating the lives of women: social welfare policy from Colonial times to the present, 3rd ed. Abramovitz, Mimi. Routledge, 2018. 316p index, 9780415785495 $150.00, 9780415785501 $39.95, 9781315228150 $39.95

Patriarchy, which subordinates white, middle-class women, as well as women of color, predates history, but the addition of capitalism in the early 19th century further cemented the distinction between the sexes. The industrial family ethic requires women (the majority recipients of welfare) to marry, maintain the home provided by the breadwinner’s labor, and raise the next generation of homemakers (women) and breadwinners (men). The state further discriminates against single and divorced women for not conforming to this traditional role, thus failing to fulfill their primary responsibility. Through early history, poverty was seen as God’s will, but as capitalism developed it came to be seen as an individual failing, and increasingly the poor were criminalized. The Depression brought on the (reluctant) welfare state, which introduced Social Security, again favoring men with increased benefits. In the 1980s, attacks on welfare developed with the rise of neoliberalism, which further eroded the position of women. This solid work (first ed. 1988, CH, Mar’89, 26-4159) appropriately emphasizes the historic and continuing plight of women in the social welfare system. Social feminist Abramovitz (Hunter College, CUNY) offers detailed suggestions to level the playing field and improve economic opportunities for women. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All academic levels/libraries.

2. Black on both sides: a racial history of trans identity. Snorton, C. Riley. Minnesota, 2017. 259p index, 9781517901721 $100.00, 9781517901738 $24.95, 9781452955865

Snorton (Africana studies and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies, Cornell) makes an essential contribution to gender studies and black studies. He draws from multiple epistemologies to help readers reconsider "trans" as both a term and an identity. The text is “an attempt to find a vocabulary for black and trans life ... it works to do more than provide a 'shadow history' or blackness in trans studies or transness in black studies.” Snorton seeks vocabularies for black and trans life through the science of sexuality, through explorations of transatlantic literature, and through the afterlife of Phillip DeVine. The author shares in the acknowledgments that he wrote this book “for those of you who have made new names and found new modes of naming.” That acknowledgment is the foundation of what his book accomplishes: to create new names and new modes of engaging with the past, and to wrestle with modes of categorization in literatures and archives, and with the collective amnesia that allows mainstream memory to forget Phillip DeVine as it memorializes Brandon Teena. This book is an outstanding contribution to conversations about black and trans studies; it will transform scholarly understandings of both fields and the intersections between them. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.
Georgetown University, 2017. 257p index, 9781626165298 $89.95, 9781626165304 $29.95, 9781626165311
This book collects articles previously published in the journals of the Society of Christian Ethics. Both the editors are scholars of theology, and both have published other works on the subject. Not all of the pieces in the present volume articulate a clear link to distinctively Christian themes or principles, but the diversity in approaches and assumptions adds to the richness of the collection. The topics range from natural law in relation to (same sex) marriage, to sexting, to the treatment of HIV/AIDS in Pentecostal communities in South Africa and how evangelical Christians might rethink their views on LGBT persons through new readings of the Bible. One of the most challenging of the essays forces one to rethink views on what is morally problematic in opposition to human trafficking when it comes to the moral agency of those who have chosen to engage in sex work. This collection is an excellent entrée into some of today’s most daunting issues of sex and gender, but those who have access to the journals may wish to pass. Summing Up: Recommended. With the above caveat. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

Shepherd (Univ. of New South Wales, Australia) is a well-published international relations scholar who specializes in critical security studies, feminist theory, and gender politics. She brings all these perspectives to bear on the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with a perfect storm of official documentary research, literature exploitation, interviews, and methodological sophistication. UN Peacebuilding focuses intensely on the PBC’s activities with respect to gender politics and the gendered domain of civil society participation in the commission’s work. Shepherd’s approach is guided “by the idea that logics of gender and space organize how we think about power, authority, and legitimacy in world politics.” In the case of the PBC, these logics often rule out or marginalize the very gender-based engagement and empowerment the commission is mandated to execute. In short, despite its institutional mission and aspirations, the discourse and practices of the PBC have failed to integrate a consistent gender perspective and have perpetuated hierarchies that undermine local participation deemed essential for peacebuilding. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals.

Milner (Queens Univ., UK) and Braddock (Univ. of Miami) have compiled a comprehensive, two-volume collection of essays exploring various issues relevant to women in sports. Encompassing an extensive array of topics, the work brings together commentary on current and historical trends, synthesis of new research, and thoughtful explorations of theory. Despite substantial progress made giving women the opportunity to excel in a sphere from which they were traditionally excluded, persistent ideologies and power structures hinder efforts to achieve a truly equitable system. The contributors also examine race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation as factors that further influence women’s experience in the sports world. Other roles of women in the sporting world are considered as well, including coaching, refereeing, and administration. The contributors to this compilation come from backgrounds ranging from gender studies and cultural studies to history and communications. The result
is a truly interdisciplinary approach that makes a substantial contribution to the field: readers of this collection of essays will gain a greater awareness of the challenges women face in the world of sport. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

6. Gender and the genocide in Rwanda: women as rescuers and perpetrators. Brown, Sara E.
Routledge, 2018. 176p bibl index, 9781138043534 $155.00, 9781315173078 $54.95
Countless studies have already been done on the "fastest genocide in modern history," which included hundreds of thousands of rapes of Tutsi women. Brown (fellow, USC Shoah Foundation) attempts to carve a niche in that body of published works with a focus on Rwandan women who took agency—positive or negative—in the maw of murderous mayhem during 1994. For what was initially her PhD dissertation, she interviewed dozens of Hutu women who were either rescuers or (especially) perpetrators, also considering other primary sources. Among many important questions she raises: why were there so many rapes during the genocide? Why did so many Hutu women participate in the crimes? How have their lives been shaped in the years since the genocide? Why have so many rescuers, especially women, remained anonymous? Regarding the latter question, Brown reveals additional layers of denial and repression beyond those suggested through a different lens in Susan Thomson's Whispering Truth to Power (CH, Sep'14, 52-0509). Additional sources regarding rescuers remain to be explored, but this study contributes to the knowledge of issues related to gender, perpetrators, and reconciliation in post-genocide Rwanda. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

7. Equal under the sky: Georgia O'Keeffe and twentieth-century feminism. Grasso, Linda M.
New Mexico, 2017. 318p bibl index, 9780826358813 $65.00, 9780826358820
This meticulously researched volume carefully follows the many diverse themes, personalities, ideas, and opportunities for expression in O'Keeffe's life, career, and art. Grasso (Graduate Center, CUNY) looks at the myriad sources that provided a historical, intellectual, and cultural context for the focused feminism that informed the artist's thought and art. O'Keeffe’s feminism was deeply rooted in emerging modernist thought, which nourished ideas and behaviors that marked O'Keeffe as an independent, creative artist and individual liberated from past and existing traditions. O'Keeffe’s commitment to her singular feminism was nourished and influenced by her relationships with classicist Mary Beard, writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, political scientist Arthur MacMahon, photographer Anita Politzer, and, of course, her husband, advocate, and patron, photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Throughout Grasso provides salient references to topics in the evolution of feminism in the US and emerging traditions in American art. The bibliography reveals the author’s command of the archival materials and of primary and secondary sources that illuminate O'Keeffe’s singular odyssey as an artist, feminist, and independent woman. This is a magisterial and perceptive study. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.

Hemmings, Clare. Duke, 2018. 291p bibl index, 9780822369981 $94.93, 9780822370031 $25.93
Hemmings (London School of Economics and Political Science) offers a book examining the significance of the anarchist activist and thinker Emma Goldman for contemporary feminist politics. Goldman, born in the Russian Empire and an immigrant to the US, played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political thinking in North America and Europe in the first half of the 20th century. Hemmings tells the story, based on Goldman’s archive, on critical literature, and on contemporary feminist theories, of an
anarchist whose feminist credentials are ambivalent at best. The author crosses the border between analytical narrative and fiction by employing an imaginative archive to fill the gaps in existing documents. The language of the book is not difficult for people with general knowledge in social sciences and humanities, but the ideal audience is those involved in contemporary feminist politics and historians of contemporary western political thought. Outside these groups, social scientists can find interesting an imaginative archive as an innovative methodological tool. This tool lacks theoretical precision so far, but it can inspire researchers to use it in different contexts. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

9. Her voice will be on the side of right: gender and power in women's antebellum antislavery fiction.
Kent, Holly M. Kent State, 2017. 204p bibl index, 9781606353172 $55.00, 9781631012761 $46.99
This monograph focuses on how white women writers' antislavery fiction in the antebellum South challenged social and gender order. Often the premise was that women, including enslaved females, were morally superior to men: women were sexually pure, devoted to family, and morally astute. Kent (history, Univ. of Illinois, Springfield) approaches the complex historiography of this feminism by the decade. Starting with the 1820s and stopping at the dawn of the Civil War, she traces the subversive possibilities of women's fiction, analyzing antislavery fiction in newspapers, periodicals, and gift books. Although Kent's scholarship is dense, the questions she raises are fascinating: Why did moral suasion fail? How are gender and sexuality interrelated? How did women's subject matter and field of action change as time passed? Those seeking an overview of this subject will find it in Jean Fagan Yellin's Women and Sisters: The Antislavery Feminists in American Culture (CH, Nov'90, 28-1762) and The Abolitionist Sisterhood: Women's Political Culture in Antebellum America, ed. by Yellin and John C. Van Horne (CH, Jan'95, 32-2926). Kent's thoroughly researched book—with its copious chapter notes and useful primary and secondary bibliography—is appropriate for serious scholars in the field. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

May 2018 Reviews

1. The women's liberation movement: impacts and outcomes, Protest, culture and society, 22.
ed. by Kristina Schulz. Berghahn Books, 2017. 362p bibl index, 9781785335860 $150.00, 9781785335877
This collection of 16 essays, which closes with a contribution from Karen Offen, takes a fresh, international look at the women's liberation movement, which began in the West more than 50 years ago. As the book's title suggests, the individual contributors examine the impacts of and contributions to many factors important in the lives of women, including equity in work, reproductive rights, and access to education. In her introduction, Schulz is quick to point out that these women's activists differed substantially from their predecessors in the 19th century, focusing not only on suffrage but also on a wide range of concerns. One of the most complex and interesting chapters, "Uneasy Solidarity: The British Men's Movement and Feminism," written by Lucy Delap, tackles the issue of who was included in the women's liberation movement by examining the role of men who supported it and "strugg[ed] to create a personal and collective masculine identity" in response to their awareness of the harm caused by the patriarchal and homophobic cultures in which they lived and worked. A fascinating text and incredibly timely in its publication, this collection provides a view into the past and contemplates paths forward. Summing Up: Essential. General collections; upper-division undergraduates and above.

Stryker (gender and women's studies, Univ. of Arizona) charts “a history of transgender people in the United States, concentrating mostly on the years after World War II.” This book is a substantial update to the original edition, published in 2008 (CH, May'09, 46-5351). The first chapter defines terms like "gender" and "identity politics" and brilliantly foregrounds the rest of the text. The five chapters that follow narrate a history of transgender people in the US through the aftermath of the 2016 election within “an expansive feminist framework.” Each chapter also includes small breakout sections that expand on terms like “gender dysphoria” and “drag balls” to guide less familiar readers through the text. Stryker deftly contextualizes the political divisions within the GLBT+ movement, especially during the movement to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 2007, and explores the divisions between the gay and transgender communities in regard to their relationships with the medical establishment. This book is required reading for historians, but it also represents an invaluable text for anyone who wants to better understand evolving concepts of gender. Summing Up: Essential. All libraries at all levels.


This book is rather difficult to define. In part, it is an autobiographical rumination and confessional. Additionally, it is an introductory overview of how patriarchy and feminism have been defined and conceptualized historically and in contemporary society. Finally, it is a call to action for all men and women to resist systems, institutions, and practices that promote and justify domination, objectification, and subordination of men over women, as well as men over men. Journalism professor Jensen (Texas), a self-proclaimed radical feminist, builds a compelling case revealing the injuries that “toxic masculinity” and patriarchy impose on both women and men. He pays particular attention to rape and rape culture, pornography and prostitution, and transgenderism, all the while challenging the pathology of patriarchy and the damage left in its wake. The result is an accessible, clearly written, informative, non-threatening introduction to radical feminism aimed at young men to help them consider how larger social structures and ideology affect their daily lives and the micro-level interactions in which they engage with women as well as with one another. Summing Up: Essential. Most levels/libraries.

4. **Gender, crime & justice: exploring the dynamics. Wilczak, Andrew L.** Rienner, 2017. 291p bibl index, 9781626376595 $85.00, 9781626376601 $32.50, 9781626377103 $32.50

Wilczak (criminology and sociology, Wilkes Univ.) provides an excellent introduction to the topics of gender, crime, and punishment and how the fields of sociology and criminology have studied these issues to date. His approach is serious but accessible, making the book ideal for undergraduates or students without a lot of background in sociological theory. Weaving together classical theories, recent empirical studies, and contemporary examples from the news and media, Wilczak presents the complex subjects of gender, intersectionality, and criminal justice in relatable ways. The breadth of topics is impressive, ranging from gangs to child pornography. The book would be strengthened by moving the chapter on intersectionality from the conclusion to earlier in the book and by attending to Patricia Hill Collins’s work on the subject. Similarly, Judith Butler’s analysis of the performativity of gender would add nuance to the author’s discussion of gender early in the text. But overall, Wilczak provides a thorough overview of the existing theory and research on these important topics. The book is sure to
spark interest in the topics presented and may inspire readers to fill in the empirical gaps relating to these subjects. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All public and academic levels/libraries.

5. **Ready player two : women gamers and designed identity. Chess, Shira.** Minnesota, 2017. 223p bibl index, 9781517900687 $108.00, 9781517900694 $27.00

The title of this volume is a nod to the second-fiddle status of female gamers in a world long dominated by male players and male game designers. Chess (entertainment and media studies, Univ. of Georgia) contends that this status is poised for change: more and more women play games, and a trickle of women are now making strides in the video game industry. Although the numbers of players approach parity, there remains a significant subgenre of video games that are designed specifically for women and which replicate and perpetuate many heteronormative stereotypes. Chess’s analysis of this trend is thought provoking, informed by her understanding of the genre both as a member of its target audience and as a critical feminist theorist. The strongest sections are those in which she considers the nuances of the games’ messages for women regarding time management, consumption, nurturing, and emotions. Chess is not quite as successful in the last chapter, in which she condenses the large body of work written on the representation of the female body in video games to just a few pages. Included in the text is a rubric to help assess a game’s ability to transcend normative stereotypes. Overall, an insightful analysis. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.


In this book, Acquaviva (George Washington Univ. School of Nursing) skillfully addresses the issue of providing inclusive health care for members of the LGBTQ community, illuminating the unique challenges they face—particularly when it comes to end-of-life care. Central to the text is Acquaviva's conviction that being truly inclusive does not simply mean treating everyone the same, or providing a specialized form of care to LGBTQ patients. It is about individualized care for all, which means addressing institutional policies and practices in order to ensure inclusiveness for every patient, family, caregiver, and health care professional. The text examines the relationships between a range of issues, including sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, gender discordance, gender nonconformity, gender dysphoria, sexuality, and sexual health, considering all of these in the context of providing inclusive palliative and end-of-life care. The text enhances the reader’s sensitivity to language bias, for example, and introduces strategies for practitioners to become advocates for policy reforms that promote inclusiveness. The extensive glossary of terms, thorough bibliography, and real-life-perspective vignettes all make this a relevant, invaluable resource for students and professionals alike. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, faculty, and professionals.

7. **No shortcut to change : an unlikely path to a more gender-equitable world. Ellerby, Kara.** New York University, 2017. 265p bibl index, 9781479893607 $89.00, 9781479817160 $30.00, 9781479803521 Ellerby (Univ. of Delaware) critiques what she calls the "add-women-and-stir" inclusion approach to equality even as she recognizes that in some instances these policies have led to advancements for women. However, she argues, these approaches cannot result in equality and reinforce some inequalities even as they ameliorate others. Including women in existing institutions, structures, and discourses reproduces hegemonic masculinity and neoliberal governance while leaving structural inequalities unchallenged. Ellerby applies her argument to three areas: women's representation,
economic rights, and violence against women. For example, in chapter 6, Ellerby argues that protecting women against violence requires an "active feminist or women's movement." These movements are necessary to get governments to be more responsive and to get women to see "private" violence as a human rights violation. However, states continue to frame violence against women as "private" and to ignore the structural nature of violence against women. Ellerby argues that framing "gender-based violence" as "masculinized violence" expands the scope of what counts as violence, denaturalizes male violence, and makes it more difficult to frame violence as a private or "women's" issue. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

8. **Code girls : the untold story of the American women code breakers of World War II. Mundy, Liza.**
Hachette Books, 2017. 416p bibl index, 9780316352536 $28.00, 9780316352550

A key difference between the US and its WW II enemies was that the US made use of the country's diversity. This is especially true in the area of codes and ciphers. Secure communication was provided by Navajo code talkers, and several of the Army's top code breakers were Jews. In England, the best cryptologist was Alan Turing, a homosexual. In Germany, women were valued only in kitchens and bedrooms; in the US, they made up the majority of code makers and code breakers. Their important story has never been told so well. Readers learn about their recruitment, how they helped manufacture cipher machines that were never broken, and how they cracked Japanese and German codes. It is all here. Cryptography, history, and personal details of the women's lives alternate, keeping the book lively. Mundy didn't just examine readily accessible sources; she also broke loose formerly classified material and interviewed some of the amazing women. The war would have lasted much longer without their contributions. It might have even ended differently. Mundy's book is for everyone and conveys a message that Americans must keep in mind to ensure their nation's future. Summing Up: Essential. All public and academic levels/libraries.

Alabama, 2017. 188p bibl index, 9780817319670 $59.95, 9780817391584 $59.95

Anthropologist Shoaff's study of Haitian migrant women working in the Dominican Republic lends a Hispaniola-based focus to what has already emerged in Europe, North America, and other parts of the world: nativist exacerbation of economic exploitation and other areas of social conflict. Dominicans have not easily dealt with the realities associated with the existence and functionality of the rural batey, home to predominately Haitian agricultural workers, nor has the memory of the 1937 massacre of Haitians near the border been entirely erased from the oral history of either country. What should be of significant interest to both scholars and humanitarians at this juncture of history, however, is the phenomenon (in more than one part of the world) of the convergence of the utility of cheap labor and services, nativism as a facilitator of their devaluation, racism as a convenient tool for labor-force identification and, finally, sophisticated opinion-altering media tools supporting the above. Shoaff ably gives an ethnographic analysis (augmented by historiographic and theoretical associations) of Haitian women and families facing tremendous odds in not only making a living but survival itself. Of particular interest will be the glaring contrast between the positive economic impact these migrants have and their stateless (and protection-less) existence in present-day Dominican Republic. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.
10. An uncertain age: the politics of manhood in Kenya. Ocobock, Paul. Ohio University, 2017. 356p bibl index, 9780821422632 $80.00, 9780821422649 $34.95, 9780821445983

As Kenya teeters on the brink of chaos because of raging political conflict between Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga, the sons of the last generation's political opponents, historian Ocobock (Notre Dame) adds a timely addition to the discourse. With a sure command of the literature, Ocobock argues for the increased importance of gender and generation for historical research. He notes the two social categories created by initiation rituals that solidified Kenyans, otherwise separated by ethnicity, class, and territory. Introducing the historical perspective, the author discusses the British colonial interest in these cultural phenomena and its attempts to mitigate against this cohesive outcome. The core of the book, based on archival material and in-depth interviews, contrasts the colonial era "elder state" to the contemporary postcolonial situation. Although these chapters are informative and detailed, the introductory chapter alone is worth the "price of admission." Like the country itself, it is slightly chaotic but admirably youthful, energetic, optimistic, and brimming with ideas for the future. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

11. Women will vote: winning suffrage in New York State. by Susan Goodier and Karen Pastorello. Three Hills, 2017. 296p bibl index, 9781501705557 $29.95, 9781501713200

This stellar book narrates the history of women's suffrage in New York State. Goodier (SUNY Oneonta) and Pastorello (Tompkins Cortland Community College) present new information on the seven-decade struggle that culminated in the passing of the New York State referendum granting women—except Native American women—full suffrage. Throughout the text, the actions of diverse women activists and resolute men are well documented, depicting the broad social movement, the personal stories, and the effect of public censure on activists who were committed to the suffragist movement. The authors also include anecdotes of women whose families refused to talk to them and who were ridiculed for their activism. A very important aspect of the book is how the authors present the concurrent activism of rural women, working-class immigrant women, black women, male suffragists, and radical women that ultimately led to the success of the movement. They also note the class, ethnic, and religious differences that set these groups apart. In the end, disparate groups came together to achieve their goal, though activists followed different paths: joining militant groups, picketing the White House, and taking their canvassing and lobbying to other non-suffrage states.