CALLING CARDS
Theory and Practice in the Study of Race, Gender, and Culture
Jacqueline Jones Royster and Ann Marie Mann Simpkins, editors

Explores personal and professional issues in the study of race, gender, and culture.

In recent decades, the concepts of race, gender, and culture have come to function as “calling cards,” the terms by which we announce ourselves as professionals and negotiate acceptance and/or rejection in the academic marketplace. In this volume, contributors from composition, literature, rhetoric, literacy, and cultural studies share their experiences and insights as researchers, scholars, and teachers who centralize these concepts in their work. Reflecting deliberately on their own research and classroom practices, the contributors share theoretical frameworks, processes, and methodologies; consider the quality of the knowledge and the understanding that their theoretical approaches generate; and address various challenges related to what it actually means to perform this type of work both professionally and personally, especially in light of the ways in which we are all raced, gendered, and acculturated.

At The Ohio State University at Columbus, Jacqueline Jones Royster is Professor of English and Ann Marie Mann Simpkins is Assistant Professor of English. Royster is the author of Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change among African American Women and Critical Inquiries: Readings on Culture and Community.

FEMALE INFANTICIDE IN INDIA
A Feminist Cultural History
Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar, Renu Dube, and Reena Dube

Examines female infanticide in colonial and postcolonial India.

Female Infanticide in India is a theoretical and discursive intervention in the field of postcolonial feminist theory. It focuses on the devaluation of women through an examination of the practice of female infanticide in colonial India and the reemergence of this practice in the form of femicide (selective killing of female fetuses) in postcolonial India. The authors argue that femicide is seen as part of the continuum of violence on, and devaluation of, the postcolonial girl-child and woman. In order to fully understand the material and discursive practices through which the limited and localized crime of female infanticide in colonial India became a generalized practice of femicide in postcolonial India, the authors closely examine the progressivist British-colonial history of the discovery, reform, and eradication of the practice of female infanticide. Contemporary tactics of resistance are offered in the closing chapters.

“Female Infanticide in India does not succumb to easy answers. After reading this book, it will be impossible to think of female infanticide in the reductive ways in which it is too often represented.” — Sharon M. Harris, editor of Blue Pencils and Hidden Hands: Women Editing Periodicals, 1830–1910

“The research embodied in this book is substantial and the approach is marked by a strong and passionate commitment to feminist theory. A book that combines a sophisticated theoretical and empirical discussion of female infanticide in India is long overdue.” — Dipesh Chakrabarty, author of Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies

Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar is an independent scholar who has taught in India and the United States. Renu Dube is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Intercultural Communication at Boise State University. Reena Dube is Assistant Professor of Film, Literature, and Postcolonial Theory at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
Sappho in the Holy Land

Lesbian Existence and Dilemmas in Contemporary Israel
Chava Frankfort-Nachmias andarella Shadmi, editors

Essays on the experience of lesbians in contemporary Israeli society.

This unique collection examines the experience of lesbians in Israel, providing insight into some of the institutions that have helped shape that experience. The book analyzes and interprets how culturally specific political, ideological, and social systems construct lesbian identities, experiences, and dilemmas, and it also explores how a specific society is seen, understood, and interpreted from a lesbian perspective. Written by scholars, professionals, and grassroots activists representing different sectors of the Israeli political spectrum, this book provides a broad perspective of the lesbian experience in Israel.

"Informative and intelligently written, Sappho in the Holy Land reflects the growing commitment to interpret gender and sexuality issues from a global perspective."
— Berenice Malka Fisher, author of No Angel in the Classroom: Teaching through Feminist Discourse

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, andarella Shadmi is Senior Lecturer of Criminology and Head of the Women's and Gender Studies Department at Beit Berl College.

A volume in the SUNY series in Israeli Studies
Russell Stone, editor

January / 320 pages
Illustrated: 1 table
$27.95 pb ISBN 0-7914-6318-4
$89.50 hc ISBN 0-7914-6317-6

Women's Space

Patronage, Place, and Gender in the Medieval Church
Virginia Chieffo Raguin and Sarah Stanbury, editors

Art historical and literary perspectives on the place of women in the medieval church.

This interdisciplinary collection addresses the location of women and their bequests within the single most important public and social space in pre-Reformation Europe: the Roman Catholic Church. Its innovative focus brings attention to gender and space as experienced in the medieval parish as well as in monastic and cathedral space. Through provocative handling of historical content and theory, the contributors explore strategies of exclusion and of inclusion and note patterns of later writers who neglect or rewrite records of female presence.

Virginia Chieffo Raguin is Professor of Art History at the College of the Holy Cross. She is the author of many books, including The History of Stained Glass: The Art of Light Medieval to Contemporary and Stained Glass in Thirteenth-Century Burgundy. Sarah Stanbury is Associate Professor of English at the College of the Holy Cross. Her previous books include Seeing the Gawain-Poet: Description and the Act of Perception and Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory (coedited with Katie Conboy and Nadia Medina).

A volume in the SUNY series in Medieval Studies
Paul E. Szarmach, editor

February / 320 pages
Illustrated: 55 illustrations
$85.00 hc only ISBN 0-7914-6365-6
Women's Studies / Film and Media

Women on the Verge of Home
Bilinda Straight, editor
Foreword by Ruth Bebar

Interrogates the comfortable and stable contours of “home,” asking what it means to women in different social, class, sexual, ethnic, and racial contexts in different times and places.

This book explores the idea of “home.” Using feminist scholarship and ethnographically grounded readings of historical, literary, and cultural texts, contributors interrogate the comfortable and stable contours of home and ask what it means to women in different social, class, sexual, ethnic, and racial contexts in different times and places. Giving voice to diverse women's understandings of home, the book includes stories of elite white U.S. and Canadian women, rural poor and peasant white women in the United States and France, a British Caribbean freed slave woman, and others.

“What is unique about this book—and what I like most—is its range in the geographical/cultural areas and time periods covered and the various approaches to the topic. This makes the book attractive to wide readerships in anthropology and sociology, gender studies, and literary/cultural studies. All of the contributions are excellent, and some are outright wonderful.”
—Maria Grosz-Ngaté, coeditor of Gendered Encounters: Challenging Cultural Boundaries and Social Hierarchies in Africa

Bilinda Straight is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Western Michigan University.

February / 224 pages
$24.95 pb ISBN 0-7914-6354-0
$78.50 hc ISBN 0-7914-6353-2

The Violent Woman
Femininity, Narrative, and Violence in Contemporary American Cinema
Hilary Neroni

Looks at how violent women characters disrupt cinematic narrative and challenge cultural ideals.

In The Violent Woman, Hilary Neroni brings psychoanalytically informed film theory to bear on issues of femininity, violence, and narrative in contemporary American cinema. Examining such films as Thelma and Louise, Fargo, Natural Born Killers, and The Long Kiss Goodnight, Neroni explores why American audiences are so fascinated—even excited—by cinematic representations of violent women, and what these representations reveal about violence in our society and our cinema. Neroni argues that violent women characters disrupt cinematic narrative and challenge cultural ideals, suggesting how difficult it is for Hollywood—the greatest of ideology machines—to integrate the violent woman into its typical narrative structure.

“Neroni’s brilliant revelation in this impressively argued and highly engaging work is that film as an artistic medium can either be like the nonviolent woman, upholding certain symbolic laws, or it can boldly go beyond to disrupt—through depictions of jouissance—the limits of the law.”
—Sheila Kunkle, coeditor of Lacan and Contemporary Film

“Neroni’s use of psychoanalytic concepts is well motivated and the terms clearly explained and integrated into the argument. The issues of femininity and violence are considered with respect to several manifestations in film and culture, both historical and contemporary, and the topic is covered with great breadth.”
—Lia M. Hotchkiss, Central Connecticut State University

Hilary Neroni is Assistant Professor of Film Studies at the University of Vermont.

A volume in the SUNY series in Feminist Criticism and Theory
Michelle A. Massé, editor

April / 208 pages
$22.95 pb ISBN 0-7914-6384-2
$73.50 hc ISBN 0-7914-6383-4

www.sunypress.edu