

# P R E F A C E

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The first edition of *Feminist Frontiers* was conceived in the late 1970s at a time when many women inside and outside academia were beginning to recognize and challenge male domination. At the time of its publication, only a handful of books and anthologies written for classroom use presented a feminist perspective on the status of women.

The evolution of this book through six editions reflects both the success of the women's movement and the development of feminist scholarship over the past three decades. Women's studies courses have blossomed and spread to campuses in even the most conservative regions of the country. Feminist scholars have, in the meantime, refined and enlarged our understanding of how gender inequality operates and how it intersects with other systems of domination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, class, and sexuality. There is no doubt that the situation of women has changed since the publication of the first edition of *Feminist Frontiers*. Gender inequality has not, however, disappeared.

We write this preface to *Feminist Frontiers 6* with pride and excitement. We are proud to be part of the continuing women's movement; we are excited by the burgeoning knowledge about how gender is connected to race, class, sexuality, nationality, and other differences. We feel fortunate to be writing, teaching, and learning at a time when feminist thought and research are flourishing and deepening. It is, simultaneously, a time to enjoy the bounty of feminist scholarship and to sow new feminist seeds. We are proud as well that this book represents the collective effort of scholars from two generations of feminists. We have enjoyed our collaboration across intellectual and generational perspectives, and we think that it has enriched the book.

We developed *Feminist Frontiers* for use as the major—or supplementary—text in courses on the sociology of women, women's studies, gender studies, or sex roles. Because this book offers a general framework for analyzing the status of women, it can also be used as a supplementary text in introductory sociology courses and in courses on social problems, foundations of society, comparative studies, and American Studies.

Although we have retained some of the articles from previous editions of *Feminist Frontiers*—particularly writings that have become feminist classics—the book has been comprehensively updated to include the more recent scholarship on gender. Approximately half of the readings and boxes are new to this edition. We have selected readings that continue to emphasize the diversity of women's experiences and multicultural perspectives. We have strengthened several sections, bringing in discussion of the most current issues in feminist scholarship, including more thorough coverage of men and masculinity.

## ORGANIZATION

*Feminist Frontiers 6* is organized into four parts, each introduced by a sociological-feminist analysis. **Part One: Introduction** begins with a section representing the diversity of women's experiences and gender systems. Its section on "Theoretical Perspectives" presents social constructionist and intersectional theoretical approaches to gender. **Part Two: Gender, Culture, and Representation** has two sections, "Representation, Language, and Culture" and "Socialization." **Part Three: Social Organization of Gender** has five sections, providing readings on work, families, sexualities, bodies

and medicine, and violence against women. **Part Four: Social Change** includes articles on global politics and the state and on social protest and the feminist movement.

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

As we set about selecting articles for this edition, we found an abundance of excellent pieces. We used the following criteria for choosing what to include:

- We wanted each selection to be engagingly written and accessible in style and language to readers from different disciplinary backgrounds.
- As a testament to the tremendous growth in depth and understanding of feminist scholarship, we sought selections exploring a wide range of theoretical and substantive issues.
- We wanted this anthology to reflect a diversity of racial, ethnic, generational, sexual, and cultural experiences.
- We sought to capture the cross-disciplinary nature of gender research.

The result is a collection that links well-written and significant articles within a general feminist sociological perspective.

### CHANGES IN THE SIXTH EDITION

The sixth edition contains 21 new articles and six new boxed inserts, representing the most current scholarship and public debates and expanding our coverage of numerous issues important to feminist scholarship. Dated pieces have been deleted or revised, while retained readings are classics in the field.

Central topics that continue to receive coverage in this edition include social constructionist theories of gender; feminist intersectionality theory; gender socialization; child-raising in egalitarian families; Chicana and Mexican women's motherhood and employment; lesbian history; intersexuality; affirmative action; gender segregation in the workplace; differences in women's and men's wages; women and welfare; eating disorders among African American, Latina, and White women; lesbian health; American Indian women; men's organizing to end violence

against women; hate crimes against lesbians; sex education; adolescent girls' sexuality; disabled women's body images; male violence and school shootings; rape as a war crime; rape on college campuses; sweatshop labor; media images of Asian American and Black women; the medicalization of gender; women's movements; third-wave feminism; black feminism; and queer politics.

Additions to the text focus especially on improving coverage of **globalization**, with new articles on such topics as the marriage market in the Vietnamese diaspora, Hindu women's violence against Muslims in India, the globalization of beauty, the status of women in Iraq, and Middle Eastern women's participation in sports.

This edition offers coverage of many **new and central topics** including:

- Sex segregation in the labor force (Reading 19)
- The glass ceiling for women in male-dominated occupations (Reading 20)
- Latina immigrant domestic workers (Reading 21)
- Dual-career couples balancing work and family life (Reading 22)
- Trans-Pacific marriages between Vietnamese women and men (Reading 24)
- Lesbian and gay families (Reading 25)
- The exclusion of lesbians from traditional family rituals (Sect. 6 Box)
- The history of lesbian identity (Reading 26)
- Cosmetic surgery (Reading 10)
- Radicalized images of Black women's bodies (Reading 11)
- Internalized sexism among women in the southern U.S. (Sect. 3 Box)
- The globalization of beauty (Reading 11; Sect. 10 Box)
- Media images of lesbian women (Reading 25)
- Male bodies and sexuality (Readings 27 & 29)
- Sexism in gynecological examinations (Sect. 8 Box)
- Reproductive rights (Reading 32)
- Reproductive rights and abortion (Reading 36)
- Women and men in sports (Readings 29 & 33)
- Women's participation in electoral politics (Reading 39)

- Male privilege (Reading 5)
- The socialization of boys into violence (Reading 16)
- Violence against women of color (Reading 36)
- Masculinity and war (Sect. 4 Box)
- Women's and men's participation in anti-feminist movements (Readings 42 & 43)
- Hate movements and violent fundamentalist movements around the globe (Readings 41 & 42)
- Muslim and Hindu women (Readings 33 & 41)
- The status of women in Iraq (Sect. 10 Box)

Although the core focus remains on women and gender, this edition offers consistent coverage of masculinity. Every section includes articles dealing with men and masculinity, or articles dealing with both men and women, with an emphasis on the inter-relationships between constructions of masculinity and femininity within gendered practices, cultures, and institutions. Thus, *Feminist Frontiers* is useful for courses in gender as well as courses in women's studies or the sociology of women.

### New Readings in the Sixth Edition

Every section has been updated with new selections, and many have been comprehensively revised. Section One includes a popular article by **Steven Shacht** on male privilege. The section on *Theoretical Perspectives* includes a new piece by **Patricia Hill Collins** on intersectionality in feminist theory, allowing better coverage of this central topic. The section on *Representation, Language, and Culture* includes a previously unpublished article by **Ingrid Banks** on black women's hair, improving the coverage of the intersections of race and sexuality in television, music, and the mass media. In addition, there are new articles on representation in other sections, notably the article by **Suzanna Danuta Walters** on media representations of gay and lesbian families (Section Six). We have also reprinted a chapter from **Debra Gimlin's** recent book that describes women's experiences with cosmetic surgery.

We have expanded the section on socialization to focus on masculinity, by including an article by **Michael Kimmel** on the socialization of boys and

a well-known article on men and war by journalist **Grace Paley**. Our coverage of work includes two up-to-date overviews of gender in the workplace: an article on sex segregation in the U.S. labor force by **Christine E. Bose** and **Rachel Bridges Whaley** and a chapter by **Irene Padavic** and **Barbara Reskin** on factors that influence women's upward mobility in male dominated occupations and the professions. We also reprint a chapter from **Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo's** award-winning book on immigrant Latina domestic workers.

In the *Families* section, there are three new articles that improve coverage of the diversity of family forms. In addition to **Walters's** article on lesbian and gay families in the media, a new selection by **Rosanna Hertz** describes strategies used by families to balance work and family life, while **Hung Cam Thai** examines trans-national marriages between immigrant men in the U.S. and Vietnamese women. The section on *Sexualities* has been significantly revised, with three new selections out of four: **Leila Rupp** on lesbian identity, **Susan Bordo** on male bodies and sexuality, and **Michael Messner** on compulsory heterosexuality.

The section on *Bodies* includes two new readings aimed at improving our coverage of the crucial areas of reproductive rights and sports: **Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson's** piece on reproductive laws and women of color and **Jennifer Hargreaves's** piece on Islamic Middle-Eastern women's participation in organized sports. **Michael Messner's** new article in the *Sexualities* section adds to the coverage of sport by discussing sport as an institution that maintains and reinforces compulsory heterosexuality.

We have added coverage of domestic violence in the section on *Violence Against Women* with **Kimberle Crenshaw's** groundbreaking article on intersectionality and the race and gender dimensions of domestic violence. Crenshaw's article also allows coverage of feminist legal theory and its application to women's lives.

The final two sections, *Global Politics and the State* and *Social Protest and the Feminist Movement*, contain several changes. We include a selection by **Harriet Woods** focusing on how gender inequality influences women's participation in local, state, and

national politics. We also provide newly expanded coverage of women's movements, focusing on racial, ethnic, class, national, sexual, and generational differences in women's activism. We have added several selections on anti-feminist movements as well. **Amrita Basu** provides new coverage of women's participation in violent fundamentalist movements in India directed against Muslims. A new selection by **Kathleen Blee** examines the way gender influences women's participation in contemporary hate movements in the United States. Another piece, by **Melanie Heath**, discusses the gender politics of the men's organization the Promise Keepers. This section also makes *Feminist Frontiers* unique among texts in its attention to third-wave feminism and queer activism.

## SUPPLEMENTS

### Companion Web site

The *Feminist Frontiers* Web site provides general information about the book and offers separate areas for students and instructors.

**For the Student:** The Student side of the site is organized to correspond to the II sections in the text. There are practice test questions, an annotated list of Web links, links to Census 2000 updates, a glossary, and a comprehensive annotated film/video guide.

**For the Instructor:** The Instructor's side of the Web site, which is password-protected, includes the Instructor's Manual, an annotated list of Web links and links to Census 2000 updates, a glossary, and a comprehensive annotated film/video guide.

Visit the companion Web site at:  
[www.mhhe.com/richardson6](http://www.mhhe.com/richardson6)

### Instructor's Resource CD (IRCD)

The following supplements are available to instructors on an Instructor's Resource CD:

#### *Instructor's Manual*

The Instructor's Manual is organized to correspond to the II sections in the text. It offers learning ob-

jectives, discussion questions, summaries of the key points of the section introductions and readings, suggestions for assignments and exercises, and an annotated list of Web links. The Instructor's Manual is also available (password-protected) on the companion Web site.

#### *Test Bank*

The Test Bank offers multiple-choice, true-false, and essay questions on the section introductions and the individual readings. It can be printed from the CD. It is also included as a **Computerized Test Bank**.

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