This is a major new history of the dramatic and enduring changes in the daily lives of poor European women and men in the nineteenth century. Rachel G. Fuchs conveys the extraordinary difficulties facing the destitute from England to Russia, paying particular attention to the texture of women’s everyday lives. She shows their strength as they attempted to structure a life and set of relationships within a social order, culture, community, and the law. Within a climate of calamities, the poor relied on their own resourcefulness and community connections where the boundaries between the private and public were indistinguishable, and on a system of exchange and reciprocity to help them fashion their culture of expediencies. This accessible synthesis introduces readers to conflicting interpretations of major historic developments and evaluates those interpretations. It will be essential reading for students of women’s and gender studies, urban history, and social and family history.

Rachel G. Fuchs is Professor of History at Arizona State University. Her previous publications include Poor and Pregnant in Paris: Strategies for Survival in the Nineteenth Century (1992) and Gender and the Politics of Social Reform in France, 1870–1914 (1995) as co-editor.
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Gender and Poverty in Nineteenth-Century Europe

Rachel G. Fuchs
Arizona State University
For

Benjamin Lokshin, Jacob Lokshin, Julian Fuchs, and Eliot Williams
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of illustrations</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 The revolutionary era, 1770–1815</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Population and poverty</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Rural society and the problems of poverty</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Working in the cities</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Life in the cities</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Charity and welfare</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of further reading</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


4.3 Léon Delachaux (1850–1919), “Linge`re (Seamstress or needleworker, also known as The laundry – interior),” 1905. Oil on canvas, 47 × 56.5 cm. Musée d’Orsay, Paris, France. Photo Credit: Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.


Acknowledgments

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those many historians who have enriched our scholarly world by their studies, and I have attempted to construct this survey on the solid foundation these scholars provided. They have taught me much, and I can only begin to provide some acknowledgment in the bibliographies of this book. As an historian accustomed to extensive use of footnotes, I found it difficult to eliminate citations to those whose research I’ve relied upon. If I have incorporated their ideas I hope they will take it as the sincerest form of flattery, as I have intended.

At Arizona State University my graduate students deserve appreciation for reading drafts of chapters and contributing their ideas in several seminars over the past years. Three students, however, deserve special words of thanks. Ute Chamberlin has my deep gratitude for finding, reading, and translating works of German scholars and for helping compile the bibliography. Without her careful reading and discussions, this book would be sorely lacking in its attention to gender in Germany. Amy D’Antonio helped me to pay attention to a literary and not just a literal interpretation of early nineteenth-century English reports, and Richard Hopkins has been a research assistant extraordinaire. I also wish to thank my colleagues in the Women’s History Reading Group who have critiqued various chapters and shared their insights. In particular, I wish to thank Susan Gray, Gayle Gullett, Asuncion Lavrin, Hava Samuelson, and Victoria Thompson. Laurie Manchester was especially gracious in sharing books and discussions about Russian history. The staff at ASU’s Hayden Library and Interlibrary loan promptly handled all my requests. Noel Stowe, as chair of the History Department, has provided a supportive environment for all the faculty to engage in research and writing.

Wonderful friends and colleagues around the country have read this manuscript and offered suggestions, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. Elinor Accampo and Leslie Page Moch have offered dear friendship, support, criticism, and advice on this book as they have on all my other work. Mary Gibson, a good friend since the beginning of our
graduate school days together, read the manuscript and added to my knowledge of Italy. Marjorie Levine-Clark was a supremely careful reader and made many helpful suggestions, especially about English history. Naomi Williams has my deep gratitude for her careful attention to editing this manuscript and saving me from what my friends have called my “wretched excess” and “repetitive redundancies.” Her editing was gentle, yet meticulous. Of course, any inaccuracies and lack of clarity are mine.

My editors at Cambridge University Press deserve great appreciation. William Beik, as editor of this series had the confidence in me to ask me to write this book and the patience to guide me through it over many years. Elizabeth Howard and Isabelle Dambricourt at the Press offered the right amount of prodding and encouragement, and I am grateful for their continued support of the project and of me. The anonymous reader for the Press offered excellent advice and suggestions.

My family has been most tolerant. My husband Norman Fuchs, my sister Lynn Basch, and my children Mindy Lokshin and Daniel Fuchs have always taken an interest in my work, and I am thankful for their understanding and good cheer. I dedicate this book to my four grandsons. I hope that they will grow up to see a world in which women and men know far less poverty than now.

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