Literature and the Development of Feminist Theory offers an insightful look at the development of feminist theory through a literary lens. Starting from the European Enlightenment, this book traces the literary careers of feminism’s major thinkers in order to elucidate the connection of feminist theoretical production to literary work. In addition to considering such well-known authors as Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Simone de Beauvoir, and Hélène Cixous, this book reflects on the influence of postcolonialism, liberalism, and specific genres such as science fiction and modernist poetry. Written by leading scholars and focusing on the literary trajectories of feminism’s noted contributors, Literature and the Development of Feminist Theory ultimately provides a new perspective on feminism’s theoretical context, bringing into view the effects of literary form on feminist thought.

Robin Truth Goodman is Professor of English at Florida State University. Her previous books include Gender Work: Feminism after Neoliberalism, Feminist Theory in Pursuit of the Public: Women and the “Re-Privatization” of Labor, and Policing Narratives and the State of Terror. She has also contributed to such journals as College Literature, Philosophy Today, Contemporary Literature, Symploke, and Conradiana.
LITERATURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEMINIST THEORY

EDITED BY

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This book is dedicated, first and foremost, to all those in the past nearly 250 years and more who have made feminist thinking possible. Whether struggling for feminist rights and causes or building ideas and concepts that have given prominence to feminist ideals and agendas, such forbearers have created a language and a set of principles that frame essential debates in the quest for freedom for women everywhere.

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