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978-0-521-57812-7 - Sex and Medicine: Gender, Power and Authority in the Medical Profession

Rosemary Pringle

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SEX AND MEDICINE

Gender, Power and Authority in the Medical Profession

Professional medicine has often been seen as a field that discriminates against women as doctors and patients. Yet women are entering medicine in increasing numbers. This book explores the position of women in the medical profession in Australia and the UK, asking the key question: do women doctors make a difference? Based on an extensive survey of general practitioners and specialists, the book evokes the culture of contemporary medicine by describing the experiences of doctors themselves, often in their own words. Pringle employs a distinctive theoretical approach, but writes accessibly and with insight about a profession that is slowly being transformed. She notes the success of women in entering medicine and describes the ways in which they have challenged medical authority and practice. This is an original and important work that contains new visions for medical practice.

Rosemary Pringle is Professor of Women's Studies at Griffith University. She has written widely on gender and work, feminist theory, family and the state. Her books include *Gender at Work* (with Ann Game), *Defining Women* (with Linda McDowell), *Transitions* (edited with Barbara Caine) and *Secretaries Talk: Sexuality, Power and Work*.

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AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AMA	Australian Medical Association
AMWAC	Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee
ANZCA	Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
ASA	Australian Society of Anaesthetists
<i>BJME</i>	<i>British Journal of Medical Education</i>
BMA	British Medical Association
<i>BMJ</i>	<i>British Medical Journal</i>
DA	Diploma of Anaesthesia
DPM	Diploma of Psychological Medicine
ECT	electroconvulsive therapy
ENT	ear, nose and throat
FFA	Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetics
FPA	Family Planning Association
GP	general practitioner
GPI	general paralysis of the insane
HO	house officer
HRT	hormone replacement therapy
HSC	Higher School Certificate
IVF	in vitro fertilization
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery
MI	myocardial infarction (heart attack)
<i>MJA</i>	<i>Medical Journal of Australia</i>
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Service
NPC	non-patient-centred
PSA	Public Service Association
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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ABBREVIATIONS

RACOG	Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RACP	Royal Australian College of Physicians
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RANZCP	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
RCGP	Royal College of General Practitioners
RCOG	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RCP	Royal College of Physicians
RCS	Royal College of Surgeons
RN	registered nurse
SHO	senior house officer
<i>SMH</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
VMO	visiting medical officer
WIGO	Women in Gynaecology and Obstetrics (UK)
WIST	Women in Surgical Training (UK)