

Gender and Poverty in Nineteenth-Century Europe

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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RACHEL G. FUCHS

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For

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



Contents

List of illustrations		page viii
Acknowledgments		X
Īω	troduction	1
Ш	troduction	1
1	The revolutionary era, 1770–1815	20
2	Population and poverty	43
3	Rural society and the problems of poverty	69
4	Working in the cities	109
5	Life in the cities	152
6	Charity and welfare	196
Conclusion		239
List of further reading		247
Index		262

vii



Illustrations

3.1	Adolphe Giraudon (1849–1929), "Jeune paysanne		
	portant des fagots (Young peasant woman carrying		
	wood)," 1870-1878. Photograph. Musée d'Orsay,		
	Paris, France. Photo Credit: Réunion des Musées		
	Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.	page	87
3.2	Attributed to Louis-Desiré Blanquart-Evrard		
	(1802–1872), "Peasant family at rest in front of a		
	thatched shed," 1853. Blanquart-Evrard, Estudes		
	Photographiques, Lille, 1853. Photograph. Photo		
	Credit: George Eastman House.		92
3.3	Jules Breton (1827–1906), "The song of the lark,"		
	1884. Oil on canvas, 110.6×85.8 cm. Henry Field		
	Memorial Collection, 1894.1033. Reproduction		
	courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago.		93
4.1	Léon Frédéric (1856–1940), "La vieille servante		
	(The old servant woman)," 1884. Oil on canvas,		
	107.7 × 101.0 cm. Photo: Lagiewski. Musée		
	d'Orsay, Paris, France. Photo Credit: Réunion des		
	Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.		121
4.2	Honoré Daumier (1808–1879), "La blanchisseuse		
	(The washerwoman)," c. 1860–1861. Oil on wood.		
	Photo: Arnaudet. Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France.		
	Photo Credit: Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art		
	Resource, NY.		123
4.3	Léon Delachaux (1850–1919), "Lingère		
	(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		125

viii



	Illustrations	ix
4.4	Walter Gay (1856–1937), "Les cigarières de Séville ou Las cigarreras (The cigarette makers of Seville, Spain)." Oil on canvas, 127 × 185 cm Photo:	
	Arnaudet. Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France. Photo Credit: Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art	
	Resource, NY.	143
4.5	Henri Rivière (1864–1951), "Scènes de rue de	1 13
	Paris: femme portant un fardeau sur l'épaule,	
	marchant dans une rue (Street scenes in Paris:	
	woman walking in the street carrying a burden on her	
	shoulder)," c. 1889. Photograph. Musée d'Orsay,	
	Paris, France. Photo Credit: Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.	149
5.1	Gustave Doré (1832–1883), "Orange Court-Drury	149
J.1	Lane," 1872. From London: A Pilgrimage by	
	Gustave Doré and Blanchard Jerrold, London,	
	1872. Reproduction courtesy of the Museum of	
	London.	166
5.2	Gustave Doré (1832–1883), "La charité des	
	poissonniers (The fishmongers' charity)." Drawing, 33×48 cm. Photo: M. Bellot. Also known as	
	"Marchands de poissons à Londres (London fish	
	merchants)." Louvre, Paris, France. Photo Credit:	
	Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.	167
5.3	"The crawlers," 1877. Photograph. Reproduction	
	courtesy of the Museum of London.	170
5.4	"Ma Rolinson of Bethnal Green making	
	mattresses," c.1890–c.1907 Photograph.	150
= =	Reproduction courtesy of the Museum of London. Gustave Doré (1832–1883), "Mendiants londoniens	172
5.5	dormant sur une banquette de pierre (London	
	beggars sleeping on a stone bench)," 1870. Photo:	
	M. Bellot, Louvre, Paris, France. Photo Credit:	
	Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY.	190
6.1	Illustrated London News, 22 December 1849, "Miss	
	Kennedy distributing clothing at Kilrush."	
	Reproduction courtesy of Steven Taylor, website,	
	"Views of the Famine" http://adminstaff.vassar.	202
6.2	edu/sttaylor/FAMINE/. Slum Sister giving out farthing breakfast, London.	202
0.2	No date. Photograph. Reproduction courtesy of the	
	Museum of London.	215



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X



Acknowledgments

хi

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