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978-1-107-06643-4 - Margaret Cavendish: Gender, Science and Politics

Lisa Walters

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MARGARET CAVENDISH

It is often thought that the numerous contradictory perspectives in Margaret Cavendish's writings demonstrate her inability to reconcile her feminism with her conservative, royalist politics. In this book Lisa Walters challenges this view and demonstrates that Cavendish's ideas more closely resemble republican thought, and that her methodology is the foundation for subversive political, scientific and gender theories. With an interdisciplinary focus Walters closely examines Cavendish's work and its context, providing the reader with an enriched understanding of women's contribution to early modern scientific theory, political philosophy, culture and folklore. Considering also Cavendish's ideas in relation to Hobbes and Paracelsus, this volume is of great interest to scholars and students of literature, philosophy, history of ideas, political theory, gender studies and history of science.

LISA WALTERS is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Ghent University. Her research interests include the intersections between early modern literature, the history of science, philosophy and gender studies. She has published articles on Margaret Cavendish and Shakespeare in journals including *Early Modern Literary Studies* and *Women's Writing*. She is also President of the International Margaret Cavendish Society.

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Abbreviations

Works by Margaret Cavendish

- APC 'Assaulted and Pursued Chastity' [1656]. *Margaret Cavendish: The Blazing World and Other Writings*, ed. Kate Lilley. London: Penguin Books, 1994, 45–118.
- NP *Natures Pictures Drawn by Fancies Pencil to the Life*. London: J. Martin and J. Allestrye, 1656.
- OUEP *Observations upon Experimental Philosophy, To which is added, The Description of a new Blazing World*. London: A. Maxwell, 1666.
- PF *Poems and Fancies*. London: J. Martin and J. Allestrye, 1653.
- PL *Philosophical Letters: or, Modest Reflections Upon Some Opinions in Natural Philosophy, Maintained by Several Famous and Learned Authors of This Age, Expressed by Way of Letters*. London, 1664.
- PPO *Philosophical and Physical Opinions*. London, 1663.
- TBW 'The Blazing World' [1666]. *Margaret Cavendish: The Blazing World and Other Writings*, ed. Kate Lilley. London: Penguin Books, 1994, 119–225.
- TC 'The Contract' [1656]. *Margaret Cavendish: The Blazing World and Other Writings*, ed. Kate Lilley. London: Penguin Books, 1994, 1–44.
- TPPO *The Philosophical and Physical Opinions*. London: J. Martin and J. Allestrye, 1655.
- TWO *The Worlds Olio*. London: J. Martin and J. Allestrye, 1655.