

An Introduction to Feminism

As well as providing a clear and critical introduction to the theory, this refreshing overview focuses on the practice of feminism with coverage of actions and activism, bringing the subject to life for newcomers as well as offering fresh perspectives for advanced students. Explanations of the main strands to feminism, such as liberalism, sit alongside an exploration of a range of approaches, such as radical, anarchist and Marxist feminism, and provide much-needed context against which more familiar historical themes may be understood. The author's broad and inclusive view conveys the diversity and disagreement within feminism with accessible clarity. The analysis of key terms equips readers with a critical understanding of the vocabulary of feminist debates that will be invaluable to undergraduate students.

LORNA FINLAYSON is Lecturer in Philosophy in the School of Philosophy and Art History at the University of Essex. She is the author of *The Political Is Political: Conformity and the Illusion of Dissent in Contemporary Political Philosophy* (2015).





An Introduction to Feminism

LORNA FINLAYSON





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107544826

© Lorna Finlayson 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-12104-1 Hardback ISBN 978-1-107-54482-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



Contents

Acknowledgements		page vi
1	Introduction	1
2	Feminist theory, feminist practice	4
3	Outposts in your head: ideology, patriarchy and critique	15
4	(De-)constructing coat-racks: feminism, sex and gender	25
5	Whose story?	52
6	Deeds not words	68
7	Faces and facades	82
8	Everyday rebellions: revolution in the private sphere	101
9	The porn wars	136
10	Among sisters: anarchism, socialism and feminism	167
11	Not in our name: colonialism, capitalism and the co-option	
	of feminism	198
12	Goodbye to all that	226
References		230
Index		246

V



Acknowledgements

First thanks go to Koshka Duff, Katharine Jenkins, Basim Musallam and two referees for Cambridge University Press, all of whom read drafts of this book in their entirety and provided invaluable feedback. I am also grateful to Mezna Qato and Eva von Redecker for comments on parts of the text, and to Natalia Baeza, Nick Bruton, Tim Button, Tessa Frost, Amelia Horgan, Lucy McMahon, Eva Nanopoulos, Remi Oriogun-Williams and a number of seminar participants at the Universities of Cambridge and Sussex for useful discussion of some of the ideas of this book. Finally, my thanks to Hilary Gaskin and Rosemary Crawley at Cambridge University Press for all their help and advice, and to Daisy Hughes for her work on the index.