Women’s International Thought: Towards a New Canon

This first anthology of women’s international thought explores how women transformed the practice of international relations, from the early to middle twentieth century. Revealing a major distortion in current understandings of the history and theory of international relations, this anthology offers an alternative “archive” of international thought. By including women as international thinkers it demonstrates their centrality to early international relations discourses in and on the Anglo-American world order and how they were excluded from its history and conceptualization.

Encompassing 104 selections by 92 different thinkers, including Anna Julia Cooper, Margaret Sanger, Rosa Luxemburg, Judith Shklar, Hannah Arendt, Merze Tate, Susan Strange, Lucy P. Mair, and Claudia Jones, it covers the widest possible range of subject matter, genres, ideological and political positions, and professional contexts. Organized into thirteen thematic sections, each with a substantial introductory essay, the anthology provides intellectual, political, and biographical context, and original arguments, showing women’s significance in international thought.

Patricia Owens is Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford. Her previous publications include Economy of Force (2015), winner of BISA’s Susan Strange Prize, Between War and Politics (2007), and, as co-editor, The Globalization of World Politics (2020). She is a former fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and Proctor Fellow at Princeton University.

Katharina Rietzler is Senior Lecturer in American History at the University of Sussex. She is currently completing a book on American philanthropy, International Relations, and the problem of the public, 1913–1954. Her work has appeared in journals such as Modern Intellectual History, Diplomatic History, and the Journal of Global History. She is a former Mellon Fellow in American History at the University of Cambridge.

Kimberly Hutchings is Professor of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary University of London. She is the author of works including Kant, Critique and Politics (1996), International Political
Sarah C. Dunstan is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow and Lecturer in the International History of Global Human Rights at the University of Glasgow. She is the author of Race, Rights and Reform (2021). Her work has also appeared in journals such as the Journal of Modern History, the Journal of the History of Ideas, the Journal of Contemporary History, and Gender & History.
Women’s International Thought: Towards a New Canon

Edited by
Patricia Owens
University of Oxford
Katharina Rietzler
University of Sussex
Kimberly Hutchings
Queen Mary University of London
Sarah C. Dunstan
University of Glasgow
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Preface and Acknowledgments

All scholarship is a collective endeavor, but this book, and the context in which it was completed, has taught us more about the necessities of collective intellectual work, and its material and emotional conditions, than we would have liked. The COVID-19 pandemic and first national lockdown came to our cities just as we completed the first draft of the book, but with a lot more work to do. We began copy-editing and proof-checking during our third lockdown. Even before the coronavirus, we were conscious of the extent to which intellectual labor depends on other forms of labor, often unacknowledged and provided by others. We would thus like to begin, rather than end, these acknowledgments by expressing our gratitude to our parents, partners, children, friends, and colleagues who allowed us to complete this work under multiple lockdowns and deliver it to the Press.

Women’s International Thought: Towards a New Canon is the companion volume to Women’s International Thought: A New History, a multidisciplinary collection of in-depth essays on over a dozen of the thinkers included here. We would strongly encourage readers to consult those essays, written by some of the leading historians and IR scholars working today. In their different ways, individually and collectively, these essays have deepened our understanding of the practices and locations of international thought and immeasurably improved the curation of this anthology. We thus acknowledge and thank Lucian M. Ashworth, Keisha N. Blain, Catia Confortini, Geoffrey Field, Kimberly Hutchings, Andrew Jewett, Helen M. Kinsella, Vivian M. May, Tamson Pietsch, Or Rosenboim, Barbara Savage, Robbie Shilliam, Glenda Sluga, Imaobong Umoren, and Natasha Wheatley.

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As stated in the preface to the first volume, *A New History* is not the last word, but a beginning. We feel this even more strongly about this second volume. Its subtitle – *Towards a New Canon* – is the result of lengthy discussions and a compromise with the Press. We are very conscious of the limitations of thinking in terms of canonical thinkers and texts. As we discuss in more detail in the Introduction to this work, canons are the product of deeply biased selection and reception processes. Even efforts to expand intellectual canons are beset with problems. We thus strongly emphasize the “Towards” in our subtitle, with its implication of movement, and thus travel, interchange, and exchange. It would go against the very spirit of our historical and theoretical project to seek to secure and fix a new canon of international thought.

This book is the second major publication of our Leverhulme Trust Research Project on Women and the History of International Thought (RPG-2017-319). We are grateful to the Trust for its generosity, affording us some of the time we have spent on this work but also, even more tangibly, the funds necessary to republish some of the works included here. May we also take this opportunity to acknowledge again those who supported and advised us during the initial application to the Trust, including our three Project Advisors, David Armitage, Robert Vitalis, and Penny Weiss, as well as Duncan Bell, Lene Hansen, Andrew Hurrell, Helen McCarthy, Iain McDaniel, Susan Pedersen, Jan Selby, Glenda Sluga, and Rorden Wilkinson.

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It continues to be an absolute pleasure to work with our editors at Cambridge University Press. We’re extraordinarily grateful to the enthusiasm, professionalism, and vision of Liz Friend-Smith and Atifa Jiwa as well as the four anonymous reviewers of the original proposal. We also
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Patricia Owens, Katharina Rietzler, Kimberly Hutchings, and Sarah C. Dunstan

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Geopolitics and War


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**Imperialism**


**Anticolonialism**

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International Law and International Organization


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Diplomacy and Foreign Policy


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World Peace


Edith Sampson, “Address by the Hon. Mrs. Edith Sampson,” Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 26 October 1952. Edith Sampson Papers, Schlesinger Library, Harvard University. Permission granted by Judge Thomas Spurlock,
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Edith Sampson’s nephew, and Schlesinger Library, Harvard University.

World Economy


Men, Women, and Gender


**Public Opinion and Education**


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Population, Nation, Immigration


Extracted from Caroline Playne, Neuroses of the Nations (London: George Allen and Unwin, 1925), 54–61.
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From Luisa Moreno, “Caravans of Sorrow: Noncitizen Americans of the Southwest,” Address delivered to the Fourth Annual Conference of the American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born, Washington DC, 3 March 1940.


**Technology, Progress, and Environment**


Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen, “Air-Mindedness,” Address to the Women’s Aeronautical Association of California, 1934, USC 55, Box 3/Folder 4 – WIAA Events Pamphlet, [pamphlet], 1–5.


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Religion and Ethics


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