

## 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.

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*Theory* (1999), *Hegel and Feminist Philosophy* (2003), *Time and World Politics: Thinking the Present* (2008), and *Global Ethics: An Introduction* (2nd edition, 2018) and co-author of *Violence and Political Theory* (2020) with Elizabeth Frazer.

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## Preface and Acknowledgments

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Patricia Owens and Katharina Rietzler (eds.), *Women's International Thought: A New History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021). They include Anna Julia Cooper, Rosa Luxemburg, Simone Weil, Eslanda Robeson, Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen, Amy Ashwood Garvey, Elizabeth Wiskemann, F. Melian Stawell, Emily Greene Balch, Merze Tate, Barbara Wootton, Vera Micheles Dean, and Krystyna Marek, among others.

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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Very special thanks must also go to our project administrators, Sharon Krummel and Dawn Tohill, for their major work in pursuing and securing the permissions to republish the selections that comprise the majority of this volume. In particular, many archivists were extraordinarily helpful, and we wish to thank Sue Donnelly at the London School of Economics Library; Wendy E. Chmielewski, curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection; and Ellen M. Shea, Head of Research Services at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. So too would we like to thank Maureen Moynagh, Professor of English at St. Francis Xavier University, for her help in securing certain selections. We did experience some frustrations. We were refused permission to republish from Elizabeth Fisher Read's 1925 book *International Law and International Relations*. This was first published by the American Foundation for Studies in Government, an interest group founded by Read's partner Esther Lape to support US involvement in a world court. At some point, Cengage Global, a major multinational education company, acquired the rights to this "product" and refused our repeated requests to republish on the basis of a "business decision" that would not be further explained. We are grateful to all the very many other archivists, publishers, and other permissions holders for responding so positively and constructively to requests. In this regard, we are particularly grateful to the holders of the copyright of the image on our front cover. The image is a reproduction of a work by Harlem Renaissance sculptor Augusta Savage. Commissioned for the 1939 World's Fair in New York, the original was a 16-foot sculpture, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," also known as "The Harp," or "Harp of Humanity." As Augusta Savage was unable to afford to have the work cast in bronze, it was destroyed at the end of the Fair. For permission to use this reproduction we are grateful to the Eartha M. M. White Collection, Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida.

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**Patricia Owens, Katharina Rietzler,  
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