
Gender and Women’s Studies in Canada. Critical Terrain focuses on the transformative potential of social justice and solidarity, enabling us to hold onto the belief that another world is possible. In so doing, we must, argue the editors, keep alive visions of gender and economic justice because these have the potential to inspire, sustain and form us both as thinkers and activists. Gender and Women’s Studies in Canada challenges us to learn and unlearn, as well as to envision change. It is an excellent introduction to a field that is at the forefront of critical thinking about inequalities and social justice.

The introduction defines the nature of gender and women’s studies and identifies current trends in the field, including gendering and queering women’s studies, indigenising and decolonising women’s studies, and globalising, internationalising, and trans-nationalising women’s studies. The collection is divided into six thematic parts: Why Gender and women’s studies and why feminism?; constructions of sex and gender; gendered identities; cultural representations and body politics; gendering work, globalisation and activism; and organising for change.

The collection contains essays by influential feminist writers, including Judy Rebick, Gloria Steinem and Kim Anderson. A wide variety of topics are covered, ranging from transgender rights, reproduction and citizenship to abortion, ageism, violence and Aboriginality. In addition to scholarly essays, Gender and Women’s Studies in Canada also includes news clips, blog posts, short fiction and personal narratives. The collection covers the past, present and future of gender and women’s studies in Canada.

Of particular interest is part 6, ‘Organising for Change’, and more particularly, two chapters, 67, ‘The Future of Feminism’ by Judy Rebick, and 68, ‘The Evolution of Transnational Feminisms: Consensus, Conflict, and New Dynamics’ by Aili Mari Tripp. In her chapter, Rebick, one of Canada’s best-known feminists and political commentators, discusses the different waves of feminism in Canada; the first wave refers to women winning the vote; the second gained them reproductive, economic and legal rights; and the third centres on cultural interventions.
rather than on social and political ones, resulting in the current LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) approach to sexual orientation. What is lacking today, argues Reebick, is a mass movement dealing with gender issues. Gender itself, she claims, is becoming a contested notion under neoliberalism, and is gradually disappearing. As a consequence, class and race divisions among women are growing, and young feminists are more active in the global justice movement than they are in the women’s movement. Capitalism, patriarchy and colonialism ‘produce the inequalities and injustice we seek to correct. Unless we challenge all those systems of domination, we will take two steps backward for every step forward’, concludes Rebick.

Aili Mari Tripp, president of the South African Studies Association, discusses the increasing international recognition of women’s rights and the interest in changing women’s status. Far from being the result of the spread of ideas about the emancipation of women from the West outward into other parts of the world, the influences have, she argues, ‘always been multidirectional’. There is a consensus among feminist movements globally ‘that have learned from one another but have often had quite independent trajectories and sources of movement’. This consensus is far from absolute, however, due to the difficulty of fully appreciating the differences between the various women’s movements in different parts of the world. Tripp argues that non-Western countries have begun to claim much of the momentum of feminist and women’s rights advocacy globally while the movements in the global North ‘have declined or become complacent or merely parochial’. Tripp concludes with a challenge to her readers: ‘It is now up to feminist organizations in the global

**Gender and Women’s Studies in Canada** is a scholarly work and an ideal introductory-level textbook for Gender Studies students. Each chapter is accompanied by detailed references and each of the six parts contains supplementary sections on issues ranging from race and income inequality, racism in Canada, men and feminism, to homophobia and heterosexism, toxic ingredients in cosmetics and rural women and poverty. There is, however, no subject index, which would have been particularly useful given the length of the volume. Nonetheless, **Gender and Women’s Studies in Canada** is an impressive collection of essays written by some of the most important authorities in the field; it addresses some of the most important issues in gender and women’s studies not only in Canada but globally. As such, it is of interest to feminists worldwide.

*Jane Mattisson Ekstam, Associate Professor, Kristianstad University*