

## Feminist Theory: Local and Global Perspectives: Preface to the Third Edition

In the introduction to the first edition of *Feminist Theory Reader*, we expressed our hope that it would challenge readers, as we challenged ourselves, to rethink the complex meanings of difference outside of contemporary Western feminist contexts. The second edition extended that challenge, encouraging readers to rethink the numerous ways in which gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, religion, and nationality are reconfigured by emerging global-local configurations of power. The third edition assembles readings that rethink feminist times and spaces by challenging the prevailing representation of feminist movements as waves.

In this third edition, Section I has been reorganized to include both historical accounts and documents-of-the-moment that archive the ideas and emotions of the mid- and late-twentieth century feminisms. Together these readings enrich our understanding of the many histories of feminist theory in local-global. In addition, a new Section IV, *Imagine Otherwise*, draws on recent efforts to move beyond the debates between postmodern and standpoint theories towards frameworks that build on the strengths of each perspective. These frameworks renew discussion of the grounds for feminist solidarity, and they reassert the social group women, however unstable, as the agent of feminist politics. In

particular, the section includes feminist analyses of emotions, bodies, and affect. The new edition endeavors to continue to expand the diverse voices of transnational feminist scholars throughout.

Introductory essays by the editors placed at the beginning of each of the four major sections lay out the framework that brings the readings together, provide historical and intellectual context of the readings, and, where appropriate, point to critical additional readings not included here. Five core theoretical concepts--gender, difference, women's experiences, the personal is political, and intersectionality -- anchor the anthology's organizational framework. The introductory essay for Section I provides a detailed discussion of these concepts.

Other than those changes, the *Reader* retains the same structure as the second edition. Section II: Theorizing Intersecting Differences examines macro-level processes that configure intersections of gender, race, class, geographic/national, and/or sexual differences. Readings alternatively focus attention on the material and discursive processes connecting capitalism, patriarchy, heteronormativity, Orientalism, and globalization. In addition, presents personal narratives that reflect on the subjective experiences of intersecting social processes. The readings delineate the complex politics of shifting locations and blurred boundaries, and they illuminate the tensions pervading experiences of intersecting identities, and border-crossings.

Section III presents two key feminist theoretical currents: standpoint theories and poststructuralist theories. Readings make the demanding concepts used in these theories more accessible for students by introducing concepts and frameworks, particularly the concepts of the disciplined body, Orientalism, the nation, and heteronormativity.

The new edition includes 16 new readings. The editors have provided test questions, which instructors can request from

[textbooksonline@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:textbooksonline@taylorandfrancis.com).