

# THE NEW BIOGRAPHY

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Performing Femininity  
in Nineteenth-Century  
France*

EDITED BY

Jo Burr Margadant



# The New Biography Performing Femininity In Nineteenth Century France

**Tim Allender, Stephanie Spencer**

## **The New Biography Performing Femininity In Nineteenth Century France:**

**The New Biography** Jo Burr Margadant,2000-09-04 This collection offers new perspectives on the lives of eight famous women in nineteenth century France Their stories are used as a starting point through which the contributing authors experiment with what is called the new biography

**'Femininity' and the History of Women's Education** Tim Allender,Stephanie Spencer,2020-12-18 This book draws on recent deconstructions around the idea of femininity as a social racial and class construct and explores the diversity of spaces that may be defined as educational that range from institutional contexts to family to professional outlooks to racial identity to defining community and religious groupings It explores how notions of femininity change across time and place and within individual lives Such changes take place at the interface of external forces and individual agency The application of the notion of femininity that assumes a consistent definition of the term is interrogated by the authors leading to a discussion of the rich possibilities for new directions in research into women s lives across time place and individual life histories

**Women in France Since 1789** Susan Foley,2017-03-14 This compelling study traces the changes in women s lives in France from 1789 to the present Susan K Foley surveys the patterns of women s experiences in the socially segregated society of the early nineteenth century and then traces the evolution of their lifestyles to the turn of the twenty first century when many of the earlier social distinctions had disappeared Focusing on women s contested place within the political nation Women in France since 1789 examines The on going strength of notions of sexual difference Recurrent debates over gender The anxiety created by women s perceived departure from ideals of womanhood Major controversies over matters such as reproductive rights significant cultural changes and women s often under estimated political roles By addressing and exploring these key issues Foley demonstrates women s efforts over two centuries to create a place in society on their own terms

**The Risky Business of French Feminism** Jennifer L. Sweatman,2014-08-26 The Risky Business of French Feminism Publishing Politics and Artistry examines the institutional history of the publishing house Editions des Femmes as well as its relationship to the French Women s Liberation Movement MLF from 1972 to the present The founding and subsequent success of Editions des Femmes in the publishing milieu intensified the ideological divisions within the MLF and highlighted the extent to which that movement failed to adequately reflect on the power inherent in its recourse to print culture as an agent of change In particular Editions des Femmes produced several periodical publications and pioneered a woman centered subculture that attached militant political meanings to the practice of buying and publishing books While the MLF succeeded in changing legislation detrimental to women it was not able to create unified cultural politics or construct a long term media strategy that could preserve the movement s original ideals and unity Jennifer L Sweatman explores the long term dissipation of the MLF as a unified force not only as an outcome of ideological disagreement but also due to conflicting views on culture women s creativity as a strategy for empowerment and the utility of media for creating change As the MLF fragmented

unable to fully come to terms with its various consumer identities its need for capital to support creative projects and its difficult experience with collective decision making the Editions des Femmes project was seen as incredibly controversial However Editions des Femmes embodied a broader strategy for cultural transformation that privileged women s creative works rather than feminism situating it as a successful forerunner of the revitalization of the publishing industry from below as small independent houses challenged the large media conglomerate control of the industry

Laura Méndez de Cuenca  
Mílada Bazant,2018-03-27 Laura Méndez de Cuenca poet teacher editor writer and feminist dared to bypass the cultural traditions of her time In the early 1870s when conservative religious thought permeated all aspects of Mexican life she was one of very few women to gain admission to an extraordinary constellation of male poets playwrights and novelists who were also the publicists and statesmen of the time She entered this world through her poetry intellect curiosity assertiveness but her personal life was fraught with tragedy she had a child out of wedlock by poet Manuel Acuña who killed himself shortly thereafter She later married another poet Agustín Fidencia Cuenca and had seven other children All but two of her children died as did Agustín As a penniless young widow facing social rejection Laura became a teacher and an important force in Mexico s burgeoning educational reform program She moved abroad first to San Francisco then St Louis then Berlin In these places where she was not known and women had begun to move confidently in the public sphere she could walk freely observe mingle make friends across many circles learn think and express her opinions She wrote primarily for a Mexican public and always returned to Mexico because it was her country s future that she strove to create Now for the first time in English Mílada Bazant shares with us the trajectory of a leading Mexican thinker who applied the power of the pen to human feeling suffering striving and achievement

**"Women, Femininity and Public Space in European Visual Culture, 1789-1914 "** Temma Balducci,2017-07-05 Focusing on images of or produced by well to do nineteenth century European women this volume explores genteel femininity as resistant to easy codification vis is the public Attending to various iterations of the public as space sphere and discourse sixteen essays challenge the false binary construct that has held the public as the sole preserve of prosperous men By contrast the essays collected in Women Femininity and Public Space in European Visual Culture 1789 1914 demonstrate that definitions of both femininity and the public were mutually defining and constantly shifting In examining the relationship between affluent women femininity and the public the essays gathered here consider works by an array of artists that includes canonical ones such as Mary Cassatt and Frans Gerd as well as understudied women artists including Louise Abbéma and Broncia Koller The essays also consider works in a range of media from fashion prints and paintings to private journals and architectural designs facilitating an analysis of femininity in public across the cultural production of the period Various European centers including Madrid Florence Paris Brittany Berlin and London emerge as crucial sites of production for genteel femininity providing a long overdue rethinking of modern femininity in the public sphere

**Crafting the Woman Professional in the Long Nineteenth Century** Kyriaki

Hadjiafxendi, Patricia Zakreski, 2016-05-13 Over the course of the nineteenth century women in Britain participated in diverse and prolific forms of artistic labour As they created objects and commodities that blurred the boundaries between domestic and fine art production they crafted subjectivities for themselves as creative workers By bringing together work by scholars of literature painting music craft and the plastic arts this collection argues that the constructed and contested nature of the female artistic professional was a notable aspect of debates about aesthetic value and the impact of industrial technologies All the essays in this volume set up a productive inter art dialogue that complicates conventional binary divisions such as amateur and professional public and private artistry and industry in order to provide a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between gender artistic labour and creativity in the period Ultimately how women faced the pragmatics of their own creative labour as they pursued vocations trades and professions in the literary marketplace and related art industries reveals the different ideological positions surrounding the transition of women from industrious amateurism to professional artistry

**Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Politics of Medicine in Nineteenth-Century America** Carla Bittel, 2012-06-01 In the late nineteenth century as Americans debated the woman question a battle over the meaning of biology arose in the medical profession Some medical men claimed that women were naturally weak that education would make them physically ill and that women physicians endangered the profession Mary Putnam Jacobi 1842 1906 a physician from New York worked to prove them wrong and argued that social restrictions not biology threatened female health Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Politics of Medicine in Nineteenth Century America is the first full length biography of Mary Putnam Jacobi the most significant woman physician of her era and an outspoken advocate for women s rights Jacobi rose to national prominence in the 1870s and went on to practice medicine teach and conduct research for over three decades She campaigned for co education professional opportunities labor reform and suffrage the most important women s rights issues of her day Downplaying gender differences she used the laboratory to prove that women were biologically capable of working learning and voting Science she believed held the key to promoting and producing gender equality Carla Bittel s biography of Jacobi offers a piercing view of the role of science in nineteenth century women s rights movements and provides historical perspective on continuing debates about gender and science today

*The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France* Suzanne Desan, 2006-06-19 Annotation A sophisticated and groundbreaking book on what women actually did and what actually happened to them during the French Revolution

[Heroes and Legends of Fin-de-Siècle France](#) Venita Datta, 2011-04-11 In *Heroes and Legends of Fin de Si cle France* Venita Datta examines representations of fictional and real heroes in the boulevard theater and mass press during the fin de si cle 1880 1914 illuminating the role of gender in the construction of national identity during this formative period of French history The popularity of the heroic cult at this time was in part the result of defeat in the Franco Prussian War in 1870 as well as a reaction to changing gender roles and collective guilt about the egoism and selfishness of modern consumer culture The author analyzes representations of historical figures in the

theater focusing on Cyrano de Bergerac Napoleon and Joan of Arc and examines the press coverage of heroes and anti heroes in the Bazar de la Charit fire of 1897 and the Ullmo spy case of 1907

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