Women, Gender and Enlightenment

edited by

Sarah Knott and Barbara Taylor
## Contents

*Preface and Acknowledgements* ix  
*Notes on Contributors* xi  
*General Introduction* xv  

### PART 1  Women, Men, Enlightenment 1  
#### SECTION 1  SEXUAL DISTINCTIONS AND PRESCRIPTIONS 3  
- *Introduction* 3  
  - Karen O'Brien  
- 1.1 Between the Savage and the Civil: Dr John Gregory's Natural History of Femininity 8  
  - Mary Catherine Moran  
- 1.2 Feminists versus Gallants: Sexual Manners and Morals in Enlightenment Britain 30  
  - Barbara Taylor  
- 1.3 ‘Ambiguous Beings’: Marginality, Melancholy, and the Femme Savante 53  
  - Anne C. Vila  

#### SECTION 2  GENDER, RACE, AND THE PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION 70  
- *Introduction* 70  
  - Jane Rendall  
- 2.1 Race, Women, and Progress in the Late Scottish Enlightenment 75  
  - Silvia Sebastiani  
- 2.2 No Woman Is an Island: The Female Figure in French Enlightenment Anthropology 97  
  - Jenny Mander  
- 2.3 Civilization, Patriotism, and Enlightened Histories of Woman 117  
  - Sylvana Tomaselli  

#### SECTION 3  SEX AND SENSIBILITY 136  
- *Introduction* 136  
  - Dror Wahrman  
- 3.1 Advice and Enlightenment: Mary Wollstonecraft and Sex Education 140  
  - Vivien Jones  
- 3.2 Tears and the Man 156  
  - Philip Carter  
- 3.3 Reading Rousseau's Sexuality 174  
  - Robin Howells
SECTION 4  GENDER AND THE REASONING MIND

Introduction
Monica Bolufer Peruga

4.1  L’Ortografe des Dames: Gender and Language in the Old Regime
Dena Goodman

4.2  ‘To think, to compare, to combine, to methodise’: Girls’
Education in Enlightenment Britain
Michèle Cohen

4.3  Discourses of Female Education in the Writings of
Eighteenth-Century French Women
Jean Bloch

SECTION 5  WOMEN INTELLECTUALS IN THE ENLIGHTENED
REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

Introduction
Carla Hesse

5.1  Women on the Verge of Science: Aristocratic Women and
Knowledge in Early Eighteenth-Century Italy
Paula Findlen

5.2  ‘The noblest commerce of mankind’: Conversation and
Community in the Bluestocking Circle
Elizabeth Eger

5.3  Aristocratic Feminism, the Learned Governess, and the Republic
of Letters
Clarissa Campbell Orr

5.4  ‘Women that would plague me with rational conversation’:
Aspiring Women and Scottish Whigs, c. 1790–1830
Jane Rendall

Part II  Feminism, Enlightenment and Revolution

SECTION 6  CHAMPIONING WOMEN: EARLY ENLIGHTENMENT
FEMINISMS

Introduction
Clarissa Campbell Orr

6.1  Mary Astell and Enlightenment
Ruth Perry

6.2  The Deconstruction of Gender: Seventeenth-Century Feminism
and Modern Equality
Siep Stuurman

6.3  ‘Neither Male Nor Female’: Rational Equality in the Early
Spanish Enlightenment
Monica Bolufer Peruga
SECTION 7  FEMINISM AND ENLIGHTENED RELIGIOUS
DISCOURSES

Introduction
Barbara Taylor

7.1 The Soul Has No Sex: Feminism and Catholicism in Early-Modern
Europe
Siep Stuurman

7.2 Religion, Feminism, and the Problem of Agency: Reflections
on Eighteenth-Century Quakerism
Phyllis Mack

7.3 Bluestocking Fictions: Devotional Writings, Didactic Literature
and the Imperative of Female Improvement
Norma Clarke

7.4 'With Mrs Barbauld it is different': Dissenting Heritage and
the Devotional Taste
Daniel E. White

7.5 Mary Hays (1759–1843): An Enlightened Quest
Gina Luria Walker

SECTION 8  WOMEN, LIBERTY AND THE NATION

Introduction
Harriet Guest

8.1 Catharine Macaulay's Histories of England: A Female Perspective
on the History of Liberty
Karen O'Brien

8.2 Liberty, Equality and God: the Religious Roots of Catherine
Macaulay's Feminism
Sarah Hutton

8.3 Romantic Patriotism as Feminist Critique of Empire: Helen
Maria Williams, Sydney Owenson and Germaine de Staël
Caroline Franklin

SECTION 9  WOMEN AND REVOLUTIONARY CITIZENSHIP:
ENLIGHTENMENT LEGACIES?

Introduction
Lynn Hunt

9.1 Women in Eighteenth-Century British Politics
Anna Clark

9.2 Extending the 'Right of Election': Men's Arguments for Women's
Political Representation in Late Enlightenment Britain
Arianne Chernock

9.3 Filles publiques or Public Women: the Actress as Citizen:
Marie Madeleine Jodin (1741–90) and Mary Darby Robinson
(1758–1800)
Felicia Gordon
9.4 The Politics of Intimacy: Marriage and Citizenship in the French Revolution  
*Suzanne Desan*  

630

9.5 Benjamin Rush's Ferment: Enlightenment Medicine and Female Citizenship in Revolutionary America  
*Sarah Knott*  

649

9.6 Women's Rights in the Era Before Seneca Falls  
*Rosemarie Zagarri*  

667

SECTION 10 CONCLUSIONS  

692

10.1 Women and Enlightenment: A Historiographical Conclusion  
*John Robertson*  

692

10.2 Feminism and Enlightenment Legacies  
*Kate Soper*  

705

*Enlightenment Biographies*  

716

*Index*  

752