Contents

Preface ix

1 Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire 1
   i “Women” as the Subject of Feminism 1
   ii The Compulsory Order of Sex/Gender/Desire 6
   iii Gender: The Circular Ruins of Contemporary Debate 7
   iv Theorizing the Binary, the Unitary, and Beyond 13
   v Identity, Sex, and the Metaphysics of Substance 16
   vi Language, Power, and the Strategies of Displacement 25

2 Prohibition, Psychoanalysis, and the Production of the Heterosexual Matrix 35
   i Structuralism’s Critical Exchange 38
   ii Lacan, Riviere, and the Strategies of Masquerade 43
   iii Freud and the Melancholia of Gender 57
   iv Gender Complexity and the Limits of Identification 66
   v Reformulating Prohibition as Power 72

3 Subversive Bodily Acts 79
   i The Body Politics of Julia Kristeva 79
   ii Foucault, Herculeine, and the Politics of Sexual Discontinuity 93
   iii Monique Wittig: Bodily Disintegration and Fictive Sex 111
   iv Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions 128

Conclusion: From Parody to Politics 142
Notes 150
Index 170