

Gender, Colonialism, and Science, 1750–1950: A Cross-Cultural Compendium of Primary Sources

General Editors: Donald L. Opitz and Banu Subramanian

5 Volumes | Routledge | 2023

Overview of Series

This series of five-volumes of primary sources will illuminate gendered knowledge about nature in various cultural contexts during the period 1750–1950. Multi-disciplinary scholarship on women and gender in relation to science, technology, and medicine is quite rich and mature, and it consists of a range of research and teaching companions that include encyclopaedias, collective biographies, literature reviews, readers, and textbook surveys. This series of five volumes will add to these rich resources by offering a major, readily-accessible compendium of primary source materials that span geographies and cultural perspectives, precisely during a period (1750–1950) when understandings of nature advanced by women, trans-persons, and early theorists on gender became increasingly visible and important, and yet ever the more contested.

Chronologically the volumes will span the period from roughly 1750 to 1950 and visit geographies across the globe of direct relevance to the ‘British Empire’, to provide both focus and yet enable cross-cultural analysis. Thematically, the volumes emphasise aspects of nature, as opposed to the standard disciplinary categories. Together, these parameters set a frame for a critical approach that will illuminate lesser-known sources from understudied contexts as well as engage issues of colonisation and de-colonisation, both politically and intellectually. In doing so, we interrogate the very categories of knowledge, moving beyond traditional conceptualisations of ‘women’, ‘nature’, and ‘science’. Theoretically, the series will be guided by a range of critical perspectives, including feminist, queer, cultural and ethnic studies. As such, the volumes not only address a need, but they also promise to contribute to scholarly efforts to prioritise the expansion of diversity and inclusion in this field.

A **series introduction** will orient readers to the volumes and their critical perspectives, as well as interrogate how primary sources can—and do—shape gender studies of science, technology and medicine. This will include commentary on the value of diverse sources to both research and teaching.

The **volumes** will include (and/or provide electronic access to)

- a wide diversity of primary sources (to include documentary, material, visual, and auditory);
- synthetic, critical introductions, with reference to the relevant scholarship;
- brief prefaces to individual sources; and
- recommendations for further resources and readings.

The volumes will carry the following themes:

Volume 1: The Cosmos. This volume will include sources that speak to understandings of the world (and its contained ‘environment’), the universe, the heavens, and the interrelation of animate and inanimate objects, natural forces, and other phenomena.

Volume 2: Animals. To include sources that speak to understandings of animals (distinctly from humans), even within knowledge systems that position animals in relation to other thematic categories in this series.

Volume 3: Plants. To include sources that speak to understandings of plant life—including quasi-plant life—even within knowledge systems that position plants in relation to other thematic categories in this series.

Volume 4: Humans. To include sources that speak to understandings of human life (and death)—both in terms of the human ‘body’ as well as human ‘society’, even within knowledge systems that position humans in relation to other thematic categories in this series.

Volume 5: Gender and the Politics of Knowledge. To include sources that offer insight into contextual views of the status and roles of women and other-gendered persons with respect to organised knowledge, conceptions of gender in relation to nature, across cultures categorized as ‘indigenous’, ‘colonial’, ‘post-colonial’, or ‘British’.

Guiding Volume Principles

Each volume will be produced to achieve the following guiding principles:

- Wide breadth of content and yet coherence to volume theme.
- Inclusion of cross-cutting and transdisciplinary sources, in coordination with other relevant volume editors to avoid redundancies.
- Variety in source types and subtypes—textual, material, visual, and auditory, and within those broad types, further variety: i.e., among texts, sources should include published documents, unpublished manuscripts, popularizations, etc.
- Provenance of sources spanning geographical regions globally, with a shared connection to the British Empire but collectively achieving cultural diversity.
- Source creators whose identities contribute to an inclusive representation among producers of knowledge in cultural context, with particular emphasis on persons who may be classified as women or transgender.
- Quantities of sources within the specified range (to be determined).
- Inclusion of sources with high intellectual merit, in terms of their originality and significance in culturally shared knowledge systems.
- Rarity of sources, privileging inclusion of less accessible, lesser-known sources over ones widely known and/or widely accessible.
- Alignment with new directions in science studies scholarship.

Resources for Volume Editors

In support of their work on the volumes, the volume editors will have access to the following supporting resources:

- Consultations with the General Editors and other Volume Editors
- Shared online file system to facilitate collaboration
- Bibliographies and readings relevant to the project
- Limited publisher-provided funds for source research costs
- Publisher style guide
- Volume editor instructions