

# Feminist Anthropology

*A Reader*

*Edited by*  
Ellen Lewin

 **Blackwell**  
Publishing

# Contents

Acknowledgments	viii
Introduction <i>Ellen Lewin</i>	1
<b>Part I Discovering Women across Cultures</b>	<b>39</b>
Introduction	41
1 Belief and the Problem of Women and the ‘Problem’ Revisited <i>Edwin Ardener</i>	47
2 A Note on the Division of Labor by Sex <i>Judith K. Brown</i>	66
3 Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture? <i>Sherry B. Ortner</i>	72
4 The Traffic in Women: Notes on the “Political Economy” of Sex <i>Gayle Rubin</i>	87
5 The Use and Abuse of Anthropology: Reflections on Feminism and Cross-cultural Understanding <i>Michelle Z. Rosaldo</i>	107
6 Toward a Unified Theory of Class, Race, and Gender <i>Karen Brodtkin</i>	129

<b>Part II Questioning Positionality</b>	<b>147</b>
Introduction	149
7 Writing against Culture <i>Lila Abu-Lughod</i>	153
8 My Best Informant's Dress: The Erotic Equation in Fieldwork <i>Esther Newton</i>	170
9 Feminist Insider Dilemmas: Constructing Ethnic Identity with Chicana Informants <i>Patricia Zavella</i>	186
10 Contingent Stories of Anthropology, Race, and Feminism <i>Paulla A. Ebron</i>	203
<b>Part III Confronting the USA</b>	<b>217</b>
Introduction	219
11 Bringing the Family to Work: Women's Culture on the Shop Floor <i>Louise Lamphere</i>	222
12 Procreation Stories: Reproduction, Nurturance, and Procreation in Life Narratives of Abortion Activists <i>Faye Ginsburg</i>	235
13 Ethnically Correct Dolls: Toying with the Race Industry <i>Elizabeth Chin</i>	250
14 Strategic Naturalizing: Kinship in an Infertility Clinic <i>Charis Thompson</i>	271
<b>Part IV Maintaining Commitments</b>	<b>289</b>
Introduction	291
15 Dirty Protest: Symbolic Overdetermination and Gender in Northern Ireland Ethnic Violence <i>Begoña Aretxaga</i>	295
16 Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Merging of Feminine and Feminist Interests among El Salvador's Mothers of the Disappeared (CO-MADRES) <i>Lynn Stephen</i>	311
17 Searching for "Voices": Feminism, Anthropology, and the Global Debates over Female Genital Operations <i>Christine J. Walley</i>	333
18 Imagining the Unborn in the Ecuadoran Andes <i>Lynn M. Morgan</i>	358

---

<b>Part V Interpreting Instability and Fluidity</b>	<b>375</b>
Introduction	377
19 “Like a Mother to Them”: Stratified Reproduction and West Indian Childcare Workers and Employers in New York <i>Shellee Colen</i>	380
20 Femininity and Flexible Labor: Fashioning Class through Gender on the Global Assembly Line <i>Carla Freeman</i>	397
21 <i>Tombois</i> in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire <i>Evelyn Blackwood</i>	411
22 “What’s Identity Got to Do with It?”: Rethinking Identity in Light of the <i>Mati</i> Work in Suriname <i>Gloria Wekker</i>	435
Index	449