

Preface

Coordinating this volume has been a positive challenge. As coeditors based in Canada (AR), Britain (RC), India (VU), and South Africa (IP), we entered into this project with a firm and enthusiastic commitment to making it a truly international endeavor. Our initial spreadsheet overflowed with countries and names of potential authors from all over the globe, reflecting our rich web of international contacts and our lofty ambitions. But as the weeks and months (and yes, years) went by, we realized that our ambitions were perhaps more aspirational than realistic. Scholars are busy. Feminist scholars are very busy. Feminist scholars living and practicing in parts of the world beset by civil unrest, unstable governments, poor infrastructure, and natural disasters are exponentially busy. We thank all of our chapter authors for their willingness to contribute to this project and for their persistence despite these obstacles and our own limitations as editors.

Although there were times when we lamented that our coverage was less-than-optimally international, we feel that the final work (although it is not the final word!) has achieved at least a moderate degree of international representation. Notable exceptions are that we have only one chapter from the vast continent of Africa. Many authors from a number of African countries agreed to write, but then had to withdraw due to other commitments and priorities. Perhaps not unsurprisingly, the (excellent) chapter that we were able to procure came from South Africa, one of the few countries on the African continent where psychology has a well-established institutional presence. Our representation from Latin America is also sparse, with a sole (wonderful) contribution from Brazil. Perhaps a future volume can address some of our gaps and fill out the areas of the globe untouched by our analyses, and our enthusiasm.

In addition to thanking all of the chapter authors, we would like to thank Anthony Marsella, editor of the *International and Cultural Psychology* book series published by Springer SBM. It was Tony's enthusiasm and commitment to feminism that propelled this volume into existence. From a conversation in his Alpharetta, Georgia, kitchen over wonderful homemade Italian food sprang a multi-year project spanning countries and continents. Sharon Panulla, our editor at Springer, has had unending patience as we have had to push deadlines to accommodate multiple schedules, and has also been unflagging in her support. Meeting with her at conferences in

the United States and over brunch in New York City has made this a pleasant and refreshingly personal process.

The organizers of the 2010 Psychology of Women Section conference of the British Psychological Society were gracious enough to invite us to present the project as the Plenary Roundtable at their meeting in beautiful Cumberland Lodge, just outside London, providing many of us with our first opportunity to put names to faces and chat in-person about the volume. At the time of writing, a double-symposium entitled “Doing Feminist Psychology Under New Conditions” is planned for the 14th biennial conference of the International Society for Theoretical Psychology, to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, in late June of 2011. It will feature many of the chapter authors presenting the contemporary challenges and issues that face feminist psychologists as they practice in diverse international contexts, and will undoubtedly produce more camaraderie and mutual exchange.

Finally, we would like to thank Jacy Young for her expert assistance with the final formatting of the chapters, and acknowledge the financial support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada standard research grant to the first co-editor which proved invaluable in bringing this volume to completion.

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