

## Acknowledgments

This book is the product of a collective intellectual and political journey that I have shared with many people over time. It began more than twenty years ago while I was taking an undergraduate women and law class at Georgetown University, where I engaged with the law and against the law by considering how it could be deployed, changed, or even abandoned to ensure a more socially just future for those historically considered less worthy of legal protection and rights. I honed this critical engagement with and against the law while attending the University of Cincinnati (UC) as a graduate student in law and women's studies. I owe a tremendous debt to the courageous vision and work of Barbara Watts, Robin Sheets, and many others at UC who helped establish the very first MA/JD in Women's Studies program, from which I was the first to graduate. While I was in law school, Dorothy Brown, Gabriel Chin, Bert Lockwood, and Barbara Watts taught me to apply a critical lens to all areas of the law. My professors in the UC Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS) were instrumental in helping me develop that lens. Patricia Hill Collins taught me that social justice inquiry starts with formulating critical questions, while Lisa Hogeland stressed that social change requires both liberal and radical politics. After my graduation, Anne Runyan also reminded me that WGS remained my home as I struggled with the politics of being a practicing attorney.

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of research informed by colleagues who courageously supported my desire to push the field into ever more expansive inquiries into where power resides, such as intellectual property rights. Richard Abel, Carole Browner, and Christine Littleton promoted this project from its beginnings and urged me to produce rigorous intersectional work. I owe a special thanks to Sandra Harding who is my model for doing rich intellectual and political work while enjoying life at the same time. I am indebted to her for asking me just the right questions, pushing me to find my own voice, and reminding me to keep family and friends first.

The field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies is indebted to those who came before and those who come after. It is a privilege, honor, and responsibility to earn an advanced degree in this emerging field. The National Women's Studies Association was founded in 1977 and Emory University offered the first doctoral degree beginning in 1990, so there are very few role models for how to navigate the life of a graduate student and faculty member trained in this field. Although it shares many attributes with other interdisciplinary programs, it also has distinct histories, genealogies, politics, and futures. This book's analysis is a testament to the possibilities of this field and how it enables entirely new sets of inquiries and frameworks to emerge. For that reason, I am grateful for those who came before to establish this institutional home, to those who struggle to maintain it, and for those who dream its enduring possibilities.

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