

Acknowledgments

I have been torn between the natural sciences and humanities for a long time. In fact, this book has probably been in the works since the day I sent in my acceptance to pursue a doctoral degree in molecular biology and reproductive neuroendocrinology. By accepting that admissions offer and extremely rewarding academic path, I declined an offer from an environmental studies program where my plan was to study bioethics, environmental justice, and women's reproductive health movements. At my side while I made this difficult decision about my academic trajectory was a cadre of feminists who encouraged me to stay in the "hard" sciences, to become a feminist scientist, to learn the science that was being used to develop new reproductive and genetic technologies, and to participate in the creation of scientific knowledge. A long time coming, this book is a direct result of that encouragement.

At any given point in my intellectual journey, I have been unbelievably fortunate to have many generous feminist mentors at my side. Several of them welcomed me into their midst while I was just an undergraduate student studying microbiology. Laura Sky introduced me to some of the most fierce and eloquent scholar-activists I have ever come across, including Shree Mulay, Karen Messing, Sunera Thobani, and Elizabeth Abergel. As a master's student studying in a cancer biology lab at McMaster University, my supervisor Andrew Rainbow supported my interdisciplinary tendencies; when I had finished required course work in genetics and radiobiology, he encouraged me to take a directed reading course in the philosophy department. For this opportunity, I am forever grateful. Through this course, Elizabeth Boetzkes introduced me to the work of Sandra Harding, Helen Longino, Nancy Tuana, Alison Wylie, and Joseph

Rouse. Reading their work as a graduate student gave me a sense of what becoming a feminist scientist would actually entail. I never imagined that one day I would have the opportunity to meet and share my ideas with these feminist philosophers in person.

As a doctoral student, I had the chance to study with one of the very few female professors in the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto. I am thankful to my supervisor, Denise D. Belsham, for sharing her scientific curiosity and her love of molecular biology research with me. I am grateful to Neil MacLusky, Ted Brown, and Bernardo Yusta for their guidance and support during my doctoral research. I want to acknowledge my lab mates Arawn Therrian, Tarranum Shakil, and Monica Antenos for their friendship and support. I also want to acknowledge the many nonhuman actants in the lab for their role in teaching me about molecular biology. It was, however, the course I took with Margrit Eichler in medical sociology and reproductive technologies at the University of Toronto that led me to my interdisciplinary career path. I can never thank Margrit enough for allowing me to audit her graduate seminar, introducing me to the field of feminist science studies, requiring me to write a final paper for the course, and encouraging me to submit that paper to the journal *Hypatia* while I was still a graduate student. I was so fortunate to receive this mentorship as a young scholar, and I am inspired to try to do the same for my own students. Through Margrit I was invited to join the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council–funded group Biology As If the World Matters (BAITWorM), where Linda Muzzin and the late Peggy Tripp-Knowles showed me that social justice work and scientific research can go hand in hand.

This brief exposure to the field of feminist science studies and my participation in a science and social justice organization made me take a gamble and apply for a tenure-track position in a women's studies department. What reason my colleagues in the Women's Studies Department at San Diego State had to take a gamble on me, I will never know. I am forever grateful to Huma Ahmed-Ghosh, Irene Lara, Susan Cayleff, Pat Huckle, Anne Donadey, Doreen Mattingly, Oliva Espin, Esther Rothblum, Bonnie Zimmerman, and Bonnie Kime Scott for supporting me while I trained to become a women's studies scholar. Around this time I was invited into an incredibly supportive community of feminist science and technology studies (STS) scholars. Two particular events during this period stand out.

First, while giving a talk at the inaugural Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics and Science Studies (FEMMSS) conference in Seattle, I had the good fortune of meeting Sandra Harding and Karen Barad. Both of these influential feminist thinkers asked me extremely difficult questions after my talk; to this day, they continue to generously engage in and support my work. Second, I was invited to join the Next Wave in Feminist Technoscience group by Jennifer Terry and Kavita Philip at the University of California–Irvine, where I was introduced to Banu Subramaniam and Michelle Murphy, both of whom became thoughtful interlocutors. Thanks to these mentors, I developed a vocabulary in feminist STS.

During my time at Emory University, I have been able to carry out several interdisciplinary projects. It is rare to have the support of an institution that doesn't ask me to justify why I want to bring the humanities and the sciences together, or waste my energy and time making the case that women's studies and the neurosciences should come together. Instead, I get to spend my time doing what I love. Thanks to my joint appointment in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and in the Program of Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology (NBB), I teach women's studies students about molecular biology and neuroscience, and neuroscience students about feminism. I join communities of learners across campus who appreciate the importance of interdisciplinary pursuits. My colleagues in the Department of WGSS have been unwavering in their support. I thank Lynne Huffer, Pamela Scully, and Elizabeth Wilson for being fearless chairs and generous mentors, and for creating a department culture where academic curiosity and friendship go hand in hand. I also want to acknowledge my WGSS colleagues Carla Freeman, Michael Moon, Irene Browne, Beth Reinghold, Falguni Sheth, Kadji Amin, and Calvin Warren for their support.

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In addition, segments of this book have been presented by way of several invited talks while still in preparation. For the opportunity to share my work, I am thankful to the following: the Compassionate Knowledge Working Group at Hampshire University, the Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth University, the Program on Science and Technology Studies at Harvard University, the Neuroscience Lecture Series at Georgia State University, the Center for the Humanities at Wesleyan University, the Institute of Women’s Studies and Gender Research at Johannes Kepler University, and the Life Un(Ltd) Lecture Series at the University of California at Los Angeles.

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favorite Tagore songs were those that turned to the lives of birds, cows, forests, flowers, and clouds to glean some of life's most important lessons on love, desire, devotion, and beauty. I'm not blaming my parents, but they might be responsible for my constant meanderings between the sciences and humanities. To my late brother, Atanu Roy, losing you when we did taught me to find meaning in my work and to treasure the people around me. Thank you for these hard life lessons. To my sister, Madhumeeta Roy, thank you for figuring out the importance of following your passions from a very young age. I have learned by your example. Thank you for being my partner in perseverance. Your role in seeing this book through, by way of constant encouragement, is worthy of coauthorship. To my children, Kheyal and Koan Roy-Meighoo, your love sustains me and your creativity inspires me. Watching you grow has been a humbling experience, and I am perpetually in awe of how you encounter the world around you through curiosity and joy. In fact, as I write these acknowledgments, The Lollipops are jamming in the room beside me. Your version of "Heads Will Roll" by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs is nothing short of fierce.

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