

WOMEN, GENDER, AND TRANSNATIONAL LIVES: ITALIAN WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Edited by Donna R. Gabaccia and Franca Iacovetta

Scholars in the United States have long defined the Italian immigrant woman as silent and submissive – a woman who stays ‘in the shadows.’ In this transnational analysis of women and gender in Italy’s worldwide migration, the contributors challenge this stereotype, using international and internationalist perspectives, feminist labour history, women’s history, and Italian migration history to provide a woman-centred, gendered analysis of Italian workers.

Analysing the lives of women in Italy, Belgium, France, the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Australia, the contributors offer realistic and engaging portraits of women as peasants and workers and uncover the voice of female militants. Most importantly, through a comparative approach to the study of women’s migration over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this volume examines not only the work and activism of migrant women but also the experiences of those women who remained in Italy. The result is a rich volume that ranges from the white widows of Sicily to union organizers in the United States, from anarchists in Argentina to Fascist-era activists in Canada.

Groundbreaking and original, this erudite collection of thirteen essays brings a fascinating new perspective to women’s studies and migration history.

(Studies in Gender and History)

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Italian Workers of the World

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*To our mothers,
Marjorie Anne Krauss Gabaccia
and
Dalinda Carmosino Lombardi Iacovetta*

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