

# Acknowledgments

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When, thirty-five years ago, I ordered my first files from the International Institute of Metropolitan Toronto records at the Ontario Archives, I did not fully realize that it offered an entry into the neglected history of women's multiculturalism. Over the years, I returned to the collection for various projects. Then, I decided to take the plunge and conduct a project of historical recovery, one that led me to write both a Toronto- and Canadian-based and a cross-border North American study of women's pluralism that also addresses the longer roots of pluralism in Canada and the United States. I did not have the foresight to plan to write this book in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the official adoption of multiculturalism in Canada, but the desire to offer a left feminist historian's intervention into the heavily male and elite-dominated historical scholarship helped me to finish it.

I am pleased to acknowledge the debts that I have incurred along the way. The archivists at the Archives of Ontario were both helpful and patient with a scholar who, in an era before cameras became such a critical tool of the historian's trade, ordered far too many photocopies of their materials. I thank as well the archivists at the City of Toronto Archives. A fellowship with the Immigration History Research Center Archives at the University of Minnesota facilitated my research into the US International Institute records. There, I benefited enormously from the professional assistance and expertise of archivist Daniel Necas and from the unflagging support of then director Donna Gabaccia. I offer a special thanks to Michael Moir (University Archivist) and especially Julia Holland, both of the York University Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, and to the staff of the Archives of Ontario, for helping me to access photographs while navigating holiday and COVID-19 lockdowns. Jesse Munroe generously shared with me items from his impressive personal archive of Canadian National Exhibition materials.

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I greatly appreciated the opportunity to deliver papers based on this research at several venues. These included the *Gender & History* symposium on Migrations, Institutions, and Intimate Lives at the University of Bristol; German Canadian Studies Conference in Grainau; Colloquium Series of Western University's Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations; Canadian Studies in Italy Conference in Milan; Department of History, Vaxjo University, Sweden; Social Science History Association meeting in Montreal; Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities held at Hofstra University; Department of History at the University of South Florida, Tampa; Canadian Historical Association meeting in Ottawa; L.R. Wilson Institute, McMaster University; Health, Medicine and Mobility Conference at University of Prince Edward Island; St Mary's University (with hosts Women's Studies, CERIS Maritimes, and Pier 21); and the Toronto Public Library.

As countless colleagues and students spent the first year of the pandemic pivoting every which way possible, I enjoyed the privilege of being able to write this book during a final paid leave from my university. As people continued to adapt and innovate, I completed revisions in the first few months of my retirement from the University of Toronto. But during the lengthy process of thinking and drafting the book, I benefited from the curiosity, support, and feedback from various colleagues. My thanks to Heidi Bohaker, Laurie Bertram, Donna Gabaccia, Sean Mills, Jeffrey Pilcher, Steve Penfold, James Retallack, Lynn Viola, and Natalie Zemon Davis. A special thank you to Russell Kazal, who generously shared with me his own research on the history of pluralism in the United States and offered invaluable feedback on earlier drafts of my work.

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For this project, I was able to expand considerably an existing database of Institute case files (from just over 1,000 to 7,000 files). I thank Amanda Wedge for her work on the final database, for responding efficiently to my endless requests for a run of cases of this or that type, for assisting with the chapters in part 1, and for generating the tables in the appendix. Before taking up their own professional posts, Nadia Jones-Gailani, Dennis Kim, and Jared Toney provided critical research assistance. Kate Gridale provided some valuable editorial assistance.

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