Women and Social Movements Library

Edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin
Women and Social Movements Library takes researchers on new paths to unique content about some of modern history’s greatest activists and the movements they shaped.

Go inside the women’s suffrage movement with Elisabeth Freeman … view the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights with Minerva Bernardino … explore the foundation for the modern LGBTQ movement in The Ladder, published by the Daughters of Bilitis … and read the words of Justina, who joined the armed struggle against the American-sponsored regime in Guatemala in the 1980s.

Women and Social Movements Library focuses on women’s public activism globally, from 1600 to the present. Created through collaboration with leading historians, the collection contains more than 400,000 pages of primary source documents and more than 200 related scholarly essays interpreting these sources.

The powerful online content in Women and Social Movements Library allows students and researchers to interpret historical materials in ways not possible in print media. Serving all levels of historical research, the Library makes inaccessible primary sources accessible within a monographic focus that uses interpretative frameworks to contribute to historical knowledge.

The Women and Social Movement Library includes the following collections:

- Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000: Edited by Judy Tzu-Chun Wu and by Rebecca Jo Plant (2019–Present)
- Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States: Edited by Thomas Dublin
- Women and Development: The Social Movements, 1919–2019: Edited by Jill Jensen
- Women and Social Movements, International, 1840–present: Edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin
- Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires since 1820: Edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin

Selected Editors of Women and Social Movements Library, 1997–2019

Karen Anderson, University of Arizona
Joyce Antler, Brandeis University
Laurie Arnold, Gonzaga University
Sheri Barnes, University of Maryland
Beth Baron, City University of New York
Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara
Victoria Brown, Grinnell College
Patricia Cleary, California State University, Long Beach
Carol Coburn, Avila University
Francisca de Haan, Central European University
Hasia Diner, New York University
Carolyn Eichner, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Cynthia Enloe, Clark University
Carol Faulkner, Syracuse University
Nancy Page Fernandez, California State University, Pomona
Estelle Freedman, Stanford University
Jennifer Frost, University of Auckland
Joanne Goodwin, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Nancy Hewitt, Rutgers University
Darlene Clark Hine, Northwestern University

Linda Janke, Anoka-Ramsey Community College
S. J. Kleinberg, Brunel University
Rui Kohiyama, Tokyo Women’s Christian University
Carol Lasser, Oberlin College
Kathleen Laughlin, Metropolitan State University
Kate Mcgregor, University of Melbourne
Barbara Molony, Santa Clara University
Karen Offen, Stanford University
Febe Pamonag, Western Illinois University
Jeanne Petit, Hope College
Joanne Sangster, Trent University
Marjorie Spruill, University of South Carolina
Yuko Takahashi, Tsuda University
Megan Threlkeld, Denison University
Jennifer Tomas, Piedmont Virginia Community College
Brandy Thomas Wells, Oklahoma State University
Laura Westhoff, University of Missouri, St. Louis
Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Iowa State University
Susan Zimmerman, Central European University
Launched in 1997, *Women and Social Movements in the United States* is an online journal devoted to advancing scholarly debates and understanding about U.S. history and U.S. women’s history at all levels. More than 2,700 authors have written and curated 200,000+ pages of innovative scholarship, primary documents, books, images, essays, book and website reviews, teaching tools and more. The project combines the analytic power of a database with the new scholarly insights of a peer-reviewed journal.

The database became an online peer-reviewed journal in 2004, with an editorial board of national and international scholars.

**Document Projects**

The collection is organized through 130 document projects. Each is a scholarly work that links an interpretive essay to 30 or more related primary documents. Through these materials, students and researchers are led from discovery to contextual understanding. Four new document projects are added every year. Recent examples include:

- “Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners! A Transnational Campaign for Liberation”
- “How Did Female Protestant Missionaries Respond to the Japanese American Incarceration Experience during World War II?”
- “How and Why Did Women in SNCC (the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) Author a Pathbreaking Feminist Manifesto, 1964–1965?”

Over the years the database added 5,000 pages annually of carefully curated and deeply indexed primary materials drawn from hundreds of archives and libraries. These include:

- 16,000 pages of writings by and about Black Women Suffragists, 1830–1960.
- Proceedings of the National Women’s Anti-Slavery Conventions in the 1830s.
- Proceedings of 19 Women’s Rights Conventions (1848–1869).
- Proceedings of the National Conventions of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (1874–1898).

*“Angela Libre” by Elizabeth Catlett, 1972. Credit: Art c. Catlett Mora Family Trust/Licensed by VAGA, New York, N.Y.*
Starting with the Fall 2019 issue, focused on “Internationalizing and Transnationalizing U.S. Women’s History,” Judy Tzu-Chun Wu and Rebecca Jo Plant will oversee Women and Social Movements in the U.S. over the next five years. Building on the profound influence of Dublin and Sklar on women’s history, the new editorial team will continue to grow and enhance this comprehensive, essential project which Dublin and Sklar began in 1997 and in partnership with Alexander Street since 2003.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu is a professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine and director of the Humanities Center. Rebecca Jo Plant is an associate professor in History at the University of California, San Diego.

Wu and Plant will continue to publish the biannual e-journal and will also bring more multimedia content into the collection, including video, audio, and artwork, to provide a more dynamic, immersive learning and research experience.

2020 releases of the journal will cover various topics including:

“Sexualities and Bodies”

- The Spring 2020 issue, “Sexualities and Bodies,” features a very rich document project by Jamie Wagman entitled “Transgender in the Heartland: Transitioning and Seeking Community in Middle America.” This project consists of oral history interviews, including both audio files and transcripts, of twenty transgender women and men who grew up or currently live in the Midwest, many in small towns and rural areas.
- Also included is a roundtable, “Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Archives,” featuring contributions from Morna Gerrard, archivist for Women and Gender Collections at Georgia State University Library; Jeff Snapp, formerly of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Project Archivist at ONE Archive; and Liana Zhou, Director of the Kinsey Institute Library and Special Collection.

“Women’s Citizenship and State Power”

- The Fall 2020 edition focuses on questions of women’s citizenship and state power in the mid-twentieth century U.S. It features two document projects that, in the broadest sense, show how different American constituencies grappled with the growing power of the federal government and the struggle to define the meaning of national citizenship in ways that accorded with their own understanding of their place within the national polity.
- The first document project, by Mary Klann, focuses on Native American women’s opposition to termination — the policy approach pursued by the federal government beginning in the 1940s that, in the name of assimilation, aimed to “terminate” the government’s special relationship with Native American tribes.
- A second document project, by David Dawson and Rebecca Jo Plant, explores congressional debates during World War II over whether to draft women for civilian work, as Britain did, in order to maximize its human resources.
ONLINE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

An initiative of Women and Social Movements in the United States, led by Thomas Dublin, the Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States (OBD), provides biographical sketches of more than 3,500 women suffrage activists, primarily concentrated in the period 1890–1920. The goal is to create an inclusive collection, including white and black suffragists, and mainstream and militant suffragists. The OBD offers for the first time a view of thousands of grassroots women suffrage activists that permits a re-visioning of this social movement. The sketches place women’s suffrage activism within the frame of women’s broader social agenda, before and after passage of the 19th Amendment in August 1920.

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, 1919–2019

Edited by Jill Jensen, The University of Redlands

Forthcoming

Women and Development: The Social Movements, 1919–2019 examines efforts to foster gender equity through expanded economic and social participation of women on a global scale. Covering a century, the database highlights and evaluates activism through individual efforts, organizational initiatives, and socio-cultural projects led by women in the Global North and the Global South. It shows how women have negotiated power and status regarding private or public programs centered on their rights and social inclusion. Stressing the historical problem of the “feminization of poverty,” coupled with women’s invisibility within most foreign aid regimes and approaches to technical assistance, the project documents how women and their allies worked to balance economic growth and social improvement while navigating equity and the fairer allocation of resources. Accompanying essays by leading scholars in the field outline and critique significant shifts in approaches to development, including that of a gendered “post-development” perspective.
Women and Social Movements, International provides an unparalleled survey of how women's struggles against gender inequalities promoted their engagement with other issues across time and cultures.

Backed by a global editorial board of 130 scholars, Women and Social Movements, International is a landmark collection of primary materials drawn from 300 repositories. Assembled and cross-searchable for the first time, these resources illuminate the writings of women activists, their personal letters and diaries, and the proceedings of conferences at which pivotal decisions were made. The collection lets researchers see how activism of the past shaped events and values that live on today, with deep insight into peace, human trafficking, poverty, child labor, literacy, and global inequality.

More than 150,000 pages of primary source documents include a central core of 60,000 pages of the proceedings of more than 400 international women's conferences. Users will find coverage of topics including:

- The 1840 World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London
- The “Beijing + 15” agenda, which reviewed implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform
- The Casablanca Dream conference of 2007, which united women from the Global South
- Crucial meetings of the League of Nations, the International Abolitionist Federation, the Inter-American Commission on Women, the African American Institute, the International Council of Jewish Women and others

About seventy-five percent of the works in Women and Social Movements, International are in copyright, with materials licensed directly from key women's organizations and publishers. Approximately seven percent of materials appear in original languages other than English. Additional key content includes:

- 25 original essays by leading scholars of women's international activism
- 90,000 pages of journals, manuscripts, letters, photographs, diaries, and ephemera
- Video slideshows of the NGO forums at the UN women's conferences, 1975-1995
- Reports from many different committees of women's international organizations, ideal for comparison of multiple perspectives
- A dictionary of women's international organizations, which details the historical impact of the groups and their leaders
- Links to 25,000 additional pages of valuable primary resources online
As the agents of empire, women acted as missionaries, educators, healthcare professionals and women’s rights advocates. As opponents of empire, women were part of nationalist, resistance and reform movements, and served as conservators of culture.

Through more than 70,000 pages of curated documents, plus new video and audio recordings, *Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires Since 1820* explores prominent themes related to conquest, colonization, settlement, resistance and post-coloniality, as told through women’s voices.

This archival database includes documents related to the Habsburg, Ottoman, British, French, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Japanese, and United States empires and to settler societies in the United States and South Africa.

A large, innovative section focuses on the leadership voices of Native Women in North America.

**Research and Teaching Applications**

Its variety of sources and breadth of coverage make *Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires* useful for studies of women’s history, U.S. and European history, world and comparative history, history of the Global South, women’s studies, religion, social and cultural history, postcolonial studies, sociology and political science.

Researchers will:

- Acquire access to colonial and postcolonial sources.
- Compare the lives of women in different empires in colonial and postcolonial contexts.
- Study transnational issues such as prostitution, relations between colony and metropole, governance, popular culture, citizenship, employment, health and medicine, education, domestic life, intimacy and sexuality, children and intermarriage.
## Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600–2000

**Alice Paul, c. September 1920, Courtesy Library of Congress**

Alice Paul, head of the National Woman's Party, was a suffrage leader who advocated women's political equality. She urged the National American Woman Suffrage Association to change its state-based strategy and throw their power behind the effort to secure a federal suffrage amendment, which was ratified in 1920.

## Women and Social Movements, International, 1840–2010


The International Council of Women, founded in 1888, was one of the first international women's organizations. Examine the conference proceedings and annual reports across 115 years.

**Dance, Music, Architecture: Lively Testimony to Indonesian Culture, a Discussion with Mrs. Dagmar Bothas**

These documents focus on the domestic and international anti-imperial activism of the Indonesian Women's Congress (Gerwani), 1945–1965. Gerwani was a secular left organization that brought together women worldwide in the name of nationalism, feminism and socialism.

## Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires since 1820

**Mary B. Talbert, Organizer of the Anti-Lynching Crusaders** *(Source: Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society)*

An important part of Black women's contribution to the NAACP campaign for the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill was the establishment of a women's organization that publicized the horrors of lynching and provided a focus for campaign fundraising. The Anti-Lynching Crusaders, founded in 1922, raised money to promote the passage of the Dyer Bill.

**Chantal Lawson, a leading Togolese Photographer**

The Africa-America Institute (AAI) was founded in 1953 to support educational programs for Africans and to inform U.S. policies designed to reduce poverty in Africa. The educational program provides scholarship support for Africans to study in the United States. Most of the material in this digital archive comes from the Women's Africa Committee of the AAI. Women's leadership programs, artwork, and economic participation are all topics of conferences proceedings and reports included in this database.

**Bantu Home Life—Booker T. Washington**

This collection of documents focuses on the interactions of African American and Black South African women in advancing mutual aid associations in South Africa the early decades of the 20th century. Through groups like the Bantu Women's League, the Bantu Youth League, and the Unity Home-Makers' Club, notables like Charlotte Maxeke, Florence Thandwis Makiwane Jabavu, and Sibusisiwe Makhanya introduced self-help organizations modeled after African American women's clubs.

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**Making Connections:** The databases in *Women and Social Movements Library* give students and researchers new opportunities to learn about women and events that shaped modern history.