Seeks to expose misconceptions found in religion, science, psychiatry, and literature—and offers discussions by lesbians on motherhood, lifestyles, sexuality, and activism.

B. LESBIAN-FEMINIST THEORY

The rise of the contemporary feminist movement produced a considerable interest in theory, some of it informed by Marxist or other leftist concerns. In some instances, especially during the radical period of the early 1970s it was suggested that the only true feminist is a lesbian—hence the phenomenon of the "political lesbian," that is one who adopts this position essentially out of political conviction rather than affectional preference.

Examine difficulties inherent in political lesbianism and the consequences for feminist politics of sexuality.

Critique the semantic unclarity of three key terms: patriarchy, ideology, and reproduction. See index for "homosexuality" and "lesbianism."

A much admired and influential work, first published in France in 1949 and prophetic of the "second wave" of feminism, by an existentialist thinker and novelist. See Chapter 15, "The Lesbian" (pp. 404-24).

Fourteen original essays reflecting "the diversity of women's experience—both within the categorizations 'lesbian' and 'heterosexual,' and across the whole continuum—and the plurality of options this necessitates."

Examine problems with the project of degendering society in order to eliminate male dominance.
361. COWARD, ROSALIND. Patriarchal Precedents: Sexuality and Social Relations. Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1983. 326 pp. Critical examination of the history of the concept of patriarchy in Marxist, psychoanalytic, and anthropological theory. Contends that this multiple legacy, stemming mainly from the 19th and early 20th centuries, has contributed to our present misunderstanding of the family, sexual relations, and sexual characteristics.


363. DEFRIES, ZIRA. "Political Lesbianism and Sexual Politics," Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis, 6 (1978), 71-78. Found that some women who had sought security in lesbianism experienced disenchantment as they discovered that the interpersonal dynamics of female-female and male-female relationships were similar.


contradictions prevalent during the 1960s. See "Lesbianism" (pp. 225-31).

   Presents the developmental process of women who have come to lesbianism through the radical feminist movement of
   the past fifteen years.

369. FRIEDAN, BETTY. The Feminine Mystique. New
   Catalytic statement for "second wave" feminism in North America, helping to precipitate a general reexamination of
   sex and gender roles, and thereby influencing the gay and lesbian movement. In the text, however, Friedan claimed
   that "the shallow unreality, immaturity, promiscuity, and lack of lasting human satisfaction that characterize the
   homosexual's sex life usually characterize all his life
   and interests."

370. LOVE YOUR ENEMY? The Debate Between Heterosexual
   Feminism and Political Lesbianism. London: Only-
   women, 1981. 68 pp.
   Theoretical letters and articles by British women.

371. McALLISTER, PAM (ed.). Reweaving the Web of Life:
   Feminism and Nonviolence. Philadelphia: New
   This feminist-pacifist anthology includes an interview
   with Barbara Deming by Mab Segrest and an essay on Natalie
   Barney by Karla Jay.

372. MASSEY, MARILYN CHAPIN. Feminine Soul: The Fate of
   Reconstructs a Central European concept as embodied in
   Romantic works of imagination by Johann Heinrich Pestaloz-
   zi, Novalis, and Friedrich Froebel. The conclusion
   points to parallels with such contemporary thinkers as
   Mary Daly and Adrienne Rich.

373. MYRON, NANCY, and CHARLOTTE BUNCH. Lesbianism and
   the Women's Movement. Baltimore: Diana Press,
   1975. 120 pp.
   Collection of essays reprinted from The Furies discussing
   aspects of lesbian-feminist politics: heterosexual
   privilege, bisexuality, heterosexism, and lesbian separat-
   ism.

374. PRESTON, JOHN. "Goodbye, Sally Gearhart: Gay Men
   and Feminists Have Reached a Fork in the Road,"
   Christopher Street, no. 58 (November 1981), 17-26.
   Holds that the activities of antipornography women mandate
   a reassessment of the relationship between gay men and
   feminists, including lesbians. See also: Brian Mossop,
   "Gay Men's Feminist Mistake," Body Politic, no. 67
   (October 1980), 32.


C. WOMEN'S STUDIES REFERENCE

With the acceptance of women's studies in many universities in North America and abroad, there has been an almost explosive growth in scholarship. To survey the field adequately would require a work several times the size of the present one. The following citations will enable one to find other references.


