

FOREWORD

The Evolution and Significance of this Volume of Essays

In 2006, I first began collaborating with the editors of this volume of essays, professors Polakoff and Lindio-McGovern, when they agreed to co-edit a special issue on women and globalization for the *Journal of Developing Societies* (JDS), which I direct as managing editor. They had both presented papers at an international symposium on women and globalization held at the Center for Global Justice in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico in 2005. They agreed to select and edit the best research papers presented at this conference and organize them into a special issue for the journal. We hoped at the time this special issue of the journal might be the *progenitora* of a subsequent state of the art book-length volume of essays on this subject. But the difficult task of organizing and editing the collection of papers which JDS published in two back-to-back issues in 2007, consumed all our attention and energy at the time. Nevertheless, we retained the hope this project would be followed by a book on this subject.

The special issue of the JDS—with the superior quality, critical substance and the international scope of its essays—was a highly welcomed contribution to a small but growing body of literature. It provided a broadly interdisciplinary and multidimensional focus on the local, national and global impacts of neoliberal capitalist globalization on women and their families, as well as on the societies in which they live. Due to the positive reception of the special issue, I was encouraged to seek out a publishing company that would republish the essays in an updated and more thematically integrated volume. Fortunately, Shivu Ishwaran, the former editor and publisher of JDS, contacted me in September 2009 about revising and publishing some of the recent special issues of JDS as new books to be produced and distributed by his publishing company, de Sitter Publications of Canada.

As a result, I contacted Polakoff and Lindio-McGovern to see if they would be interested in working with Ishwaran to update, revise and republish the essays on women and globalization they had organized and co-edited for JDS, and they enthusiastically agreed to serve as the co-organizers and co-editors of this new book project. We then approached the current publisher of JDS, SAGE India, to give de Sitter Publications permission to republish the essays from the JDS special issue on women and globalization. Our friends in New Delhi gave their approval and Polakoff and Lindio-McGovern contacted the authors of the essays contained in the following pages of this volume to ask them to prepare their essays for publication in this new book.

As Polakoff and Lindio-McGovern state in their preface to this volume, they decided to re-conceptualize the focus of the original collection of essays in the JDS special issue. They informed the authors of the essays in the special issue that they would like them to update and revise their essays for this new book, which would give particular emphasis to women's resistance to neoliberal capitalist globalization. Under Polakoff's and Lindio-McGovern's adept leadership as the co-editors of this new publication, the international assemblage of authors in this volume aligned their essays with the new focus on the politics of women's resistance to neoliberal capitalist globalization. Polakoff and Lindio-McGovern also produced new introductory and concluding essays which deftly frame, contextualize and synthesize the contributions of the collection of authors in this volume.

Consequently, de Sitter Publications has now published this remarkable collection of essays which goes beyond the original groundbreaking nature of the JDS special issue by giving particular emphasis to the ways women have resisted the harmful, inequitable and unjust effects of the policies, practices and ideologies that have accompanied the neoliberal capitalist globalization of their societies. As recently as five years ago, it would have been almost impossible to produce this kind of world-class collection of essays on this topic. The body of research and knowledge on this subject was still at a premature stage of evolution. The book as a whole represents a cutting edge of the existing body of knowledge on this subject. Moreover, these essays on women's resistance to globalization are state of the art in quality. It is the crowning achievement of Polakoff's and Lindio-McGovern's visionary, skillful and arduous efforts to collect, integrate and synthesize the critical perspectives, research findings and analyses produced by an extraordinary international collection of scholars, researchers and social activists who share concerns about, and critically understand the ways in which women have resisted the negative impact of neoliberal policies and corporate globalization on their everyday lives and on their societies. As Polakoff states in the introduction, this book examines and reveals 'the diverse ways in which women challenge racism, sexism, classism and other forms of oppression and dehumanization, and their consequences'. And as Lindio-McGovern states in the concluding chapter, this book also reveals the various ways women's resistance to neoliberal capitalist globalization 'offers strategies, insights and practical ideas about how a better, more just world can be achieved'.

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