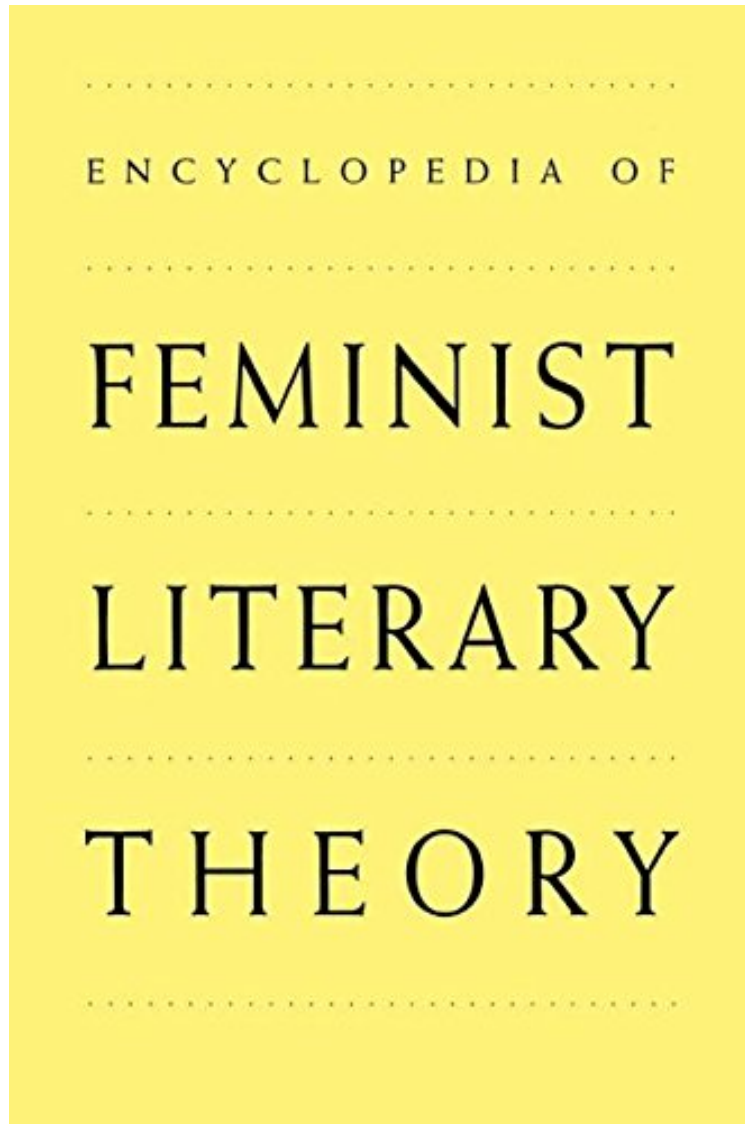


Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities)

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From Brand: Routledge : Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Reply to Mr. Noel Anderson and a Recommendation By A Customer My first comment is a response to Mr. Noel Anderson. As a Women's Studies graduate student, I first must

take issue with his assertion that graduate students, among others, are not qualified to contribute to a volume of this sort. With 6 years of training in feminist theory, I would personally consider myself competent to write a concise summary of an important author or term in this field; I'm sure my peers feel the same. Second, I think it's telling that Mr. Anderson is so upset that Simone de Beauvoir's relationship with Sartre is not a large part of the entry on this writer. Certainly, the indebtedness to existential thought is acknowledged in the entry, and since the encyclopedia is focused on contributions to feminist theory, I see no reason why de Beauvoir's personal relationships should receive the attention instead of her intellectual grounding. I also find it hard to imagine anyone being disturbed by an entry on Sartre for say, "An Encyclopedia of Philosophical Thought" that failed to mention de Beauvoir. Personally, I have found this reference volume invaluable for checking the history of sometimes ambiguous terms, not to mention useful as a bibliographic source.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. invaluable information

By A Customer

Mit der Bildung einer feministischen literarischen Forschung besonders seit den 70er Jahren entwickelte sich nicht nur ein erweiterter Begriff von Literaturgeschichtsschreibung(1) sondern auch eine zum Teil neue, stark reflektierte Begrifflichkeit(2). Die grundlegenden Nachschlagewerke zur allgemeinen Literaturtheorie(3) enthalten das begriffliche Koordinatensystem gegenwärtiger feministischer Literaturtheorie jedoch nur in Ansätzen - und dies, obwohl es in der akademischen Öffentlichkeit (im besonderen im Lehrbetrieb) eine weit wichtigere Rolle einnimmt, als die Abhandlungen es widerspiegeln kann. Als erstem ausführlichen Nachschlagewerk kommt der Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory damit Pionierfunktion zu. Eine Funktion, die sie mit 439 eng bedruckten Seiten Einträgen und einem 9 seitigen Register, das auch die zitierte Literatur erfasst(4), sehr gut erfüllt. Autoren, Konzepte und Begriffe erscheinen alphabetisch geordnet. In den Autorenbeiträgen (Autoren angelsächsischer Herkunft) folgt der Gesamteinschätzung ('Wertung' wäre der falsche Begriff) eine Übersicht über die wichtigsten Werke in der Art einer kurzgefassten, 'narrativen' Bibliographie. Eine Vorgehensweise, die auch für Konzepte und Begriffe verwendet wird, hier aber cursorisch an der Entwicklung der Begrifflichkeit dieselbe bis in die gegenwärtige Forschung nachzeichnend. Stärke des Bandes ist hierbei, da er trotz der hierzu nötigen Verdichtung niemals unverständlich wird, da eine Erhellung auch teilweise komplexer Theoreme gelingt. Gerade bei der Aufnahme und Weiterentwicklung von Konzepten aus Psychoanalyse, Poststrukturalismus und Marxismus - drei 'Bewegungen', die die gegenwärtige feministische Literaturtheorie entscheidend beeinflussen und die ihr eigenes, differenziertes Vokabular entwickelt haben - wird dies willkommen sein.

1 Vergl. Eagleton, Mary. "Who's who and where's where: Constructing feminist literary studies." in *Feminist Review* 53(1996), 1-23. 2 Einführungen in die feministische Literaturtheorie wurden in IFB 95-4-573 bis 95-4-577 vorgestellt. 3 Siehe IFB 94-3/4-427 bis 94-3/4-432. 4 Um dem begeisterten Rezensenten nicht ungeteilten Positivismus vorwerfen zu können, ein Umstand, der unangenehm aufgefallen ist: Susan Gubar findet man, auch im Register, nur unter Sandra Gilbert. R. Nink

1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Distorted viewpoint omits inconvenient people and facts.

By A Customer

There are some strong indications that this encyclopedia should not be regarded as reliable. Firstly, many contributors do not have the education or qualifications necessary for writing academic encyclopedia articles. Many accomplished scholars are listed, but research on the web reveals up to 20% of the contributors are graduate students, non-faculty staff, and even departmental secretaries. Secondly, the editing of this encyclopedia was either so politically correct that gross distortions of fact were acceptable, or so casual that major mistakes about major feminist literary figures were overlooked. This encyclopedia will probably become famous for its presentation of a long article on Simone de Beauvoir that doesn't mention Jean-Paul Sartre once. Compare, "Her name is permanently linked to Existentialism and Jean-Paul Sartre," and (Of the SECOND SEX) "...As in much of her work, the influence of Sartre's ideas, even his terminology, is obvious," from the de Beauvoir article in AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CONTINENTAL WOMEN WRITERS (1991). The political rewriting of literary history with inconvenient people and facts left out unfortunately brings to mind that monument to scholarly dishonesty, the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA. If the editor, Elizabeth Kowaleski-Wallace, is willing to include a distorted and politically correct version of the life and work of a seminal feminist writer such as Simone de Beauvoir, what might she permit in articles on obscure authors and recondite subjects? Mr. Noel Anderson (anderson@library.uta.edu)

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First Published in 1997. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

"The signed entries are generously full...Offers a solid overview of the field as of the mid-1990s."-Literary Research Guide "Schools with strong women's studies programs will find this an invaluable source for understanding the foundations of feminist literary theory."-he Bookwatch "An essential complement to...surveys of literary theory."-Rettig on Reference "The range of topics covered in this single volume is impressive. Overall, the Encyclopedia would make a good addition to any reference collection."-Feminist Collections

About the Author Elizabeth Kowaleski-Wallace is Assistant Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies at Boston College. She is the author of *Their Father's Daughters: Hannah More, Maria Edgeworth and Patriarchal Complicity*; *Consuming Subjects: British Women and Consumer Culture 1720-1820*; and is co-editor of *Refiguring the Father: New Feminist Readings of*

Patriarchy.