

Cultivating Feminist Choices

A FEminiSTSCHRIFT in Honor of
Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres

Edited by Brigetta M. Abel, Nicole Grewling,
Beth Ann Muellner, and Helga Thorson



University
of Victoria
Libraries

2021

© 2021 Brigetta M. Abel, Nicole Grewling, Beth Ann Muellner, and Helga Thorson

Published by University of Victoria Libraries
Victoria, British Columbia V8P 5C2 Canada

press@uvic.ca

Printed in Canada
Book and cover design by Rayola Creative

See exceptions for images on pages 6–7

This publication, unless otherwise indicated, is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License. This means that you may copy, redistribute, remix, transform or build upon the material for non-commercial purposes only. Distribution of derivative works must be made under an identical license that governs the original work. Properly attribute the book as follows:

Abel, Brigetta M., Grewling, Nicole, Muellner, Beth Ann, and Thorson, Helga. (Eds.). (2021). *Cultivating Feminist Choices: A FEminiSTSCHRIFT in Honor of Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres*. Victoria, BC: University of Victoria Libraries. This work is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted.

Download this book at <https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/handle/1828/3853>

References to internet URLs were accurate at the time of writing. Neither the authors nor the University of Victoria is responsible for URLs that may have expired or changed since the manuscript was prepared. The publisher and contributor make no representation, express or implied, with regard to the accuracy of the information contained in this book and cannot accept responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions that it may contain.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: *Cultivating feminist choices : a FEminiSTSCHRIFT in honor of Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres* / Brigetta M. Abel, Nicole Grewling, Beth Ann Muellner, and Helga Thorson, editors.

Names: Joeres, Ruth-Ellen B., 1939- honouree. | Abel, Brigetta M., editor. | Grewling, Nicole, editor. | Muellner, Beth Ann, editor. | Thorson, Helga, editor. | University of Victoria (B.C.). Library, publisher.

Description: Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20210176369 | Canadiana (ebook) 2021017658X | ISBN 9781550586794 (softcover) | ISBN 9781550586800 (PDF)

Subjects: LCSH: Joeres, Ruth-Ellen B., 1939—Influence. | LCSH: Feminism—Germany. | LCSH: Feminism—Authorship. | LCSH: Academic writing. | LCGFT: Festschriften.

Classification: LCC HQ1627 .C85 2021 | DDC 305.420943—dc23

Contents

List of Figures	v
Acknowledgements	vii
INTRODUCTION BRIGETTA M. ABEL, NICOLE GREWLING, BETH ANN MUELLNER, AND HELGA THORSON	1
Section 1	Feminist Roots/Routes
CHAPTER 1 <i>Feminist Choices: Contemplating the Intricacies of Feminist Spaces</i> HELGA THORSON	9
CHAPTER 2 <i>Strange Bedfellows: A Married Lesbian's Feminist-Queer Critique of the Homo-Ehe Debates in Germany</i> ALISON GUENTHER-PAL	27
CHAPTER 3 <i>Unboxed: On Media, Memory, and the Material Archive</i> ANGELICA FENNER	53
Section 2	Feminist Scholarship Revisited
CHAPTER 4 <i>On This Occasion, Seven Letters</i> MARTINA S. ANDERSON	73
CHAPTER 5 <i>Ein (unvollständiger) Reisebericht</i> MONIKA MOYRER	97

<i>iv</i>	CHAPTER 6	<i>Mindfulness in Academia: On the Fine Art of Intellectual Labor</i>	113
		BETH ANN MUELLNER	
	Section 3	Feminist Collaboration in Action	
	CHAPTER 7	<i>Feminist Collaboration: A Conversation</i>	133
		BRIGETTA M. ABEL	
	CHAPTER 8	<i>Autogynographically Speaking: A Dialogue on Feminist Friendship</i>	153
		ELIZABETH MITTMAN AND LISA ROETZEL	
	CHAPTER 9	<i>Writing that Matters: An E-pistolary Dialogue</i>	175
		ANGELIKA BAMMER AND RUTH-ELLEN BOETCHER JOERES	
	Section 4	Feminist Mentoring/Mentoring Feminists	
	CHAPTER 10	<i>Feminist Scholar/Activist, Teacher, Mentor, Colleague, Friend</i>	201
		RICK MCCORMICK	
	CHAPTER 11	<i>Tea with R.E.</i>	211
		SHAWN C. JARVIS	
	CHAPTER 12	<i>A Personal and Intellectual Feminist Journey over Four Decades with Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres</i>	221
		SARAH STEPHENS	
	APPENDICES	LIST OF SELECTED BOOK PUBLICATIONS BY RUTH-ELLEN BOETCHER JOERES	229
		LIST OF SELECTED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS BY RUTH-ELLEN BOETCHER JOERES	230
		LIST OF DISSERTATIONS SUPERVISED BY RUTH-ELLEN BOETCHER JOERES	234
	ABOUT THE EDITORS		237

List of Figures

All images used with permission

- FIG. 2.1 The author and her partner (l & r center) at their wedding ceremony, August 12, 2018. © William Davis.
- FIG. 4.1 Free books in Kendall Square micro-library kiosk, Cambridge, MA. © 2019 Martina S. Anderson.
- FIG. 4.2 Collage © 2020 Martina S. Anderson. [Collage of letter salutations from Julius to Lilli Seligsohn, 1939–1941; ink stamp from envelope addressed to Lilli Seligsohn, Amsterdam, from Julius Seligsohn, postmarked January 9, 1940, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2; photograph of Lilli Seligsohn, c. 1970].
- FIG. 4.3 “Das Kloster Wienhausen bei Celle, Ansicht des vormaligen Nonnenchors” (Wienhausen Abbey near Celle, view of the former nun’s choir loft). *Archiv für Niedersachsens Kunstgeschichte: eine Darstellung mittelalterlicher Kunstwerke in Niedersachsen und nächster Umgebung*, edited by Hector Wilhelm Heinrich Mithoff, Hannover, 1849–62, <https://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/ank> [Public Domain].
- FIG. 4.4 Photograph in photo album (group of girls), 1920s. © 2020 Martina S. Anderson.
- FIG. 4.5 Page from photo album (*Kochstunde, Eßzimmer*/cooking lesson, dining room), 1920s. © 2020 Martina S. Anderson.
- FIG. 4.6 “Fröhliche Sportgruppe” (Joyful sporting group), Winter 1935. Reproduced from the author’s photo collection.
- FIG. 7.1 Dissertation Writing Group, c. 1999. Back row (right to left): Beth Ann Muellner, Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres; front row (right to left): Lorna Sopcak, Brigetta M. Abel, Rebecca Raham, Martina S. Anderson. © Pascale Bos.
- FIG. 8.1 Cover page of “Autobiographical Writings of German Women,” Mittman/Roetzel Course Syllabus, Summer 1987 © Elizabeth Mittman and Lisa Roetzel.

- FIG. 8.2 Excerpt from “Self-Preservation as Political Action,” Mittman/Roetzel unpublished paper, Spring 1986. © Elizabeth Mittman and Lisa Roetzel.
- FIG. 8.3 “Schon wieder in Holland, Rotkäppchen?” (In Holland Again, Little Red Riding Hood?), by Lisa Roetzel, *Women in German Newsletter*, no. 54, March 1991, p. 8.
- FIG. 8.4 “Dancing Through the Minefield,” by Lisa Roetzel, *Women in German Newsletter*, no. 55, August 1991, front cover.
- FIG. 8.5 “Landing Party from the Planet Herstra,” by Lisa Roetzel, *Women in German Newsletter*, no. 57, March 1992, p. 8.
- FIG. 11.1 Shawn Jarvis with Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres at her PhD defense celebration luncheon, Dinkytown in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 1990. © Shawn Jarvis.
- FIG. 12.1 Sarah Stephens and Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres, MA celebration, June 2008. © Sara Stephens.

Acknowledgements

Any major scholarly and creative undertaking demands the labor, time, and care of many people; in this case, we asked our contributors to join us in an unusual process. Not only were they willing to experiment with styles of writing that were unfamiliar and that took risks, but they were also eager to help us develop the process for a truly collaborative, edited anthology. Our contributors played the roles of author, peer reviewer, editor, and advisor, and they did so with great generosity, ease, and kindness. You will read more about the collaborative process for this volume in the introduction, and for now we would like to extend our gratitude to Martina Anderson, Angelika Bammer, Angelica Fenner, Alison C. Guenther-Pal, Shawn Jarvis, Rick McCormick, Elizabeth Mittman, Monika Moyrer, Lisa C. Roetzel, and Sarah Stephens for their engagement with this project and this process. A special thanks goes to

Angelica Fenner, who proposed changes to the title of the volume, which we gratefully accepted.

When we decided to compile this *FEMINISTSCHRIFT*, we immediately contacted Ruth-Ellen's colleagues in the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic, and Dutch at the University of Minnesota. Rick McCormick and Arlene Teraoka gave early support by advising us on what Ruth-Ellen's preferences might be for such a project and by helping vet our early ideas. Cathy Parlin provided us with names and addresses of possible contributors—and was her usual generous self in responding to miscellaneous queries during our work. We missed the collaborative and friendly spirit that we experienced in our years in Folwell Hall, and it's nice to know that it endures.

Shawn Jarvis worked with Brian Vetruba at the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library to compile bibliographies of Ruth-Ellen's books and articles, as well as a list of dissertations that she supervised during her time at the University of Minnesota. We are pleased to be able to share those useful lists with you in the appendices to this volume.

Clint Hutzulak at Rayola Creative gave the volume its flair. We appreciate his work on both the cover design and the overall formatting, in both the print and online versions. We are extremely thankful for his patience with our many revisions.

Financial support for this project was provided by the University of Victoria, the College of Wooster, and Macalester College. The support from the College of Wooster came from a stipend that Beth Ann Muellner received after participating in a Faculty College for Women Associate Professors, and it seems fitting that those funds stem from yet another feminist collaboration, this time with Wooster colleagues Jen Bowen and Angie Bos. We are particularly grateful for the book subvention grants from the University of Victoria that made it possible for us to make this book openly accessible under a creative commons license. We firmly believe in building access through open publishing, but we recognize that this type of endeavor costs money; we are pleased we received the funds to publish this work in a way that reflects the collaborative and open spirit of the project.

Inba Kehoe was our editor at the UVic Libraries. Her keen eye and insistence on consistency improved not only the language of this work but also the underpinning ideas. We are grateful for her constructive feedback as well as her patience with us as we considered her comments. We greatly appreciate her willingness to edit the book under a strict timeline with such efficiency, expertise, and attention to detail.

One of the biggest editorial challenges we had as we worked together—first with each other and then with Inba—was how we should name our mentor, Dr. Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres. We know all too well from our work with Ruth-Ellen that women authors are too frequently called by their first names, while men are almost always referred to by their last. So, what should we do in texts that discuss both personal and professional relationships with Ruth-Ellen, that discuss Ruth-Ellen as a mentor, a scholar, and a friend? Do we write as we would speak and call her Ruth-Ellen? Boetcher Joeres? Joeres? We thank Inba for encouraging us to make our text friendlier and easier to read by using the first name; at the same time, we decided that in certain instances, especially when we refer to Ruth-Ellen as a scholar, we would use the name Joeres. Inba's invaluable assistance helped us work through these thorny questions, which are so tied up with language and power, an awareness of which stems from the substance of our earlier work with Ruth-Ellen.

Finally, we want to thank Dr. Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres. Without you, there would be no “we” and none of the connections and relationships that have flourished on the pages here—and, of course, in our lives beyond the pages—would be possible. We are grateful that you gently reminded us time and again that naming is an act of power. We thank you, Dr. Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres, with all your names and titles.