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The Wayward Woman: Progressivism, Prostitution, and Performance in the United States, 1888-1917 (Paperback)

By Barbara Antoniazzi

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Wayward Woman takes a fresh look at the Progressive Era, recasting the turn-of-the-century debate on gender roles and prostitution. Recapitulating and transcending extant studies of female delinquency, prostitution literature, and Progressive womanhood, this work understands female waywardness as the critical intersection between the rise of female emancipation and the panic inspired by the period's obsession with sexual enslavement. Concurrently, it explores the Progressive ambivalence about compassion and control which unfolded alongside a war on prostitution that traversed the realms of law, medicine, literature and politics. Drawing on theories of performativity the author develops the wayward woman as a capacious analytical category that encompasses all women who, countering the residual injunction of domesticity, brought new forms of femininity into the light of the public sphere: the activist, the professional and the divorcee, but also the female breadwinner, the charity girl and the urban woman of color--among many others. The book investigates the continuum of waywardness that stretches from the high-minded New Woman to the ever-victimized white slave as a cultural battlefield where numerous women stepped across the boundaries of class, race and...



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Reviews

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