



Claudia Leeb

**Working-Class Women in Elite Academia**

A Philosophical Inquiry

Bruxelles, Bern, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2004. 220 pp.

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In this original book, Claudia Leeb uses a poststructuralist perspective to chart explicit and tacit assumptions about the working class in general and the working-class woman specifically in the classical texts of prominent political philosophers and social critics including Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Rousseau, Marx, Weber and Bourdieu. The author argues that philosophical discourses that construct such categories as the Other function as disciplinary practices that aim at keeping working-class women either out of or at the margins of academic institutions. She analyzes interviews with women from a range of national origins in New York City’s elite academic institutions, who identified their backgrounds as working class. Her analysis foregrounds the potential of these women to resist class and gender discipline. *Working-Class Women in Elite Academia* makes a significant contribution to political-theory literature on injustice that challenges and reconfigures the meanings of woman and working class. It is of particular interest to political philosophers, critical theorists, and women’s and gender studies scholars.

Contents: Working-Class Women – Working-Class Women in Elite Academia – Class and Gender in Political Theory and Philosophy – Feminist Political Theory.

The Author: Claudia Leeb is a feminist political philosopher and psychologist. She is based at the New School for Social Research in New York City and is the author of *Die Zerstörung des Mythos von der Friedfertigen Frau* [*The Destruction of the Myth of the Peaceful Woman*].

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