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Featured Bookshelf: 2018 Women's History Month

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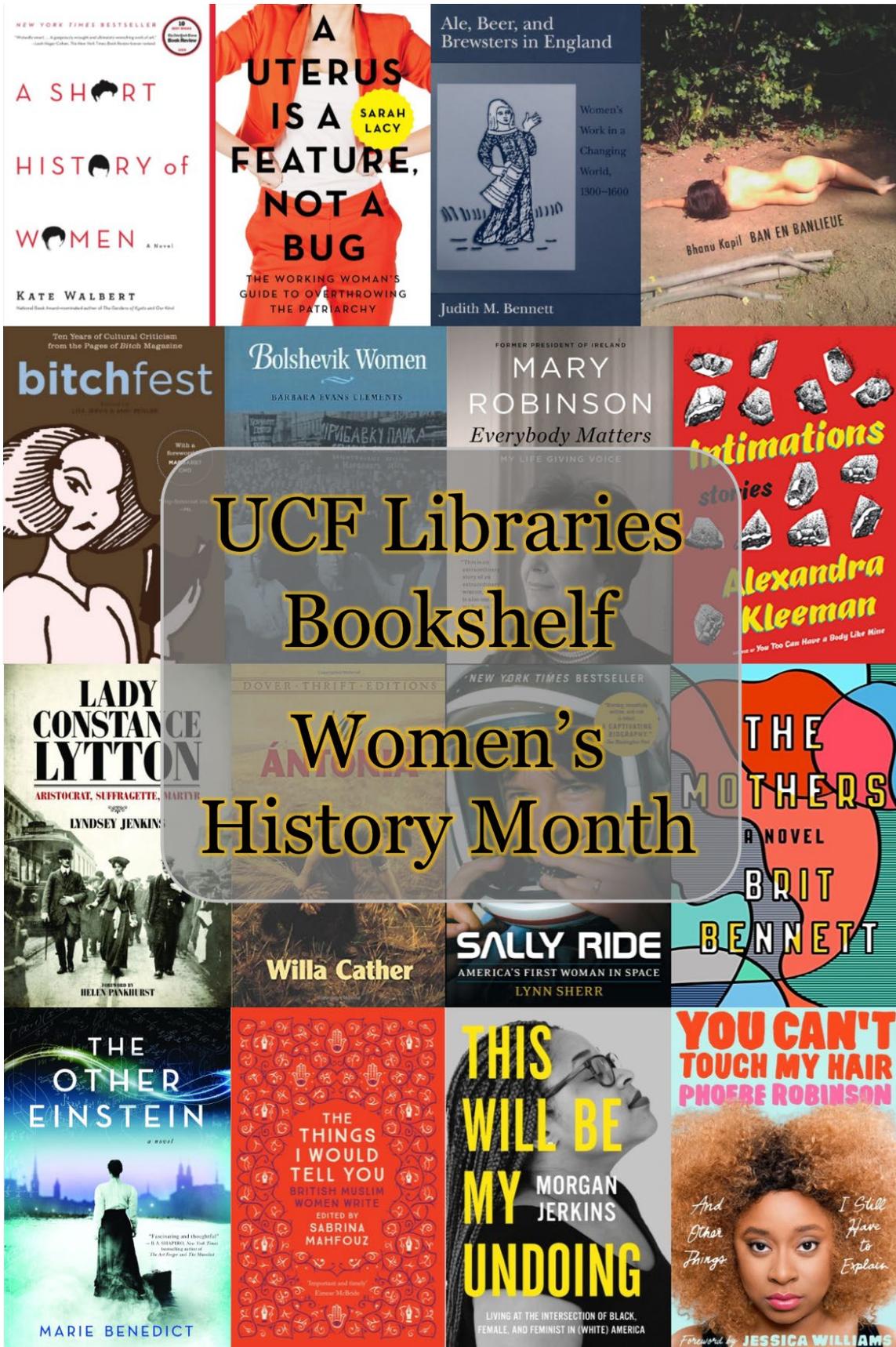
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
"Utterly smart... a grippingly smart and delicious reading of a...
—Lisa See, *The New York Times Book Review* (starred review)

A SHORT
HISTORY of
WOMEN A Novel

KATE WALBERT
National Book Award-nominated author of *The Good and Beautiful*

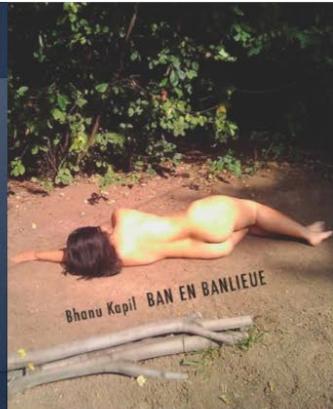
A
UTERUS
IS A
FEATURE,
NOT A
BUG
SARAH LACY
THE WORKING WOMAN'S
GUIDE TO OVERTHROWING
THE PATRIARCHY

Ale, Beer, and
Brewsters in England



Women's
Work in a
Changing
World,
1300-1600

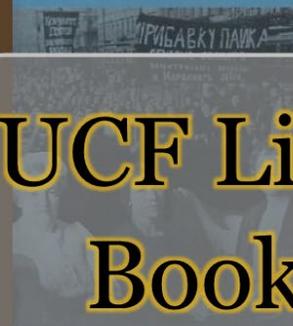
Judith M. Bennett



Ten Years of Cultural Criticism
from the Pages of *Bitch* Magazine



Bolshevik Women
BARBARA EVANS CLEMENTS



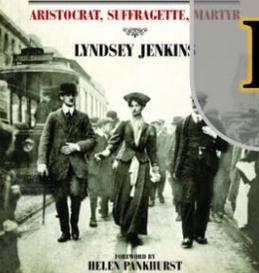
FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MARY
ROBINSON
Everybody Matters
MY LIFE GIVING VOICE

Intimations
stories
Alexandra
Kleeman
...as if You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine

UCF Libraries
Bookshelf

LADY
CONSTANCE
LYTTON
ARISTOCRAT. SUFFRAGETTE. MARTYR
LYNDEY JENKINS



DOVER THRIFT EDITIONS

Willa Cather

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

SALLY RIDE
AMERICA'S FIRST WOMAN IN SPACE
LYNN SHERR

THE
MOTHERS
A NOVEL
BRIT
BENNETT

Women's
History Month

THE
OTHER
EINSTEIN
a novel
MARIE BENEDICT

THE THINGS I WOULD TELL YOU
BRITISH MUSLIM
WOMEN WRITE
EDITED BY
SABRINA
MAHFOUZ

THIS
WILL BE
MY
UNDOING
MORGAN
JERKINS
LIVING AT THE INTERSECTION OF BLACK,
FEMALE, AND FEMINIST IN (WHITE) AMERICA

YOU CAN'T
TOUCH MY HAIR
PHOEBE ROBINSON
And
Other
Things
I Still
Have
to
Explain
Foreword by JESSICA WILLIAMS

Women's History Month began as a week-long celebration by in Sonoma, California in 1978 which was centered around International Women's Day on March 8. A year later during a women's history conference at Sarah Lawrence College, participants learned how successful the week was and decided to initiate similar in their own areas. President Carter issued the first proclamation for a national Women's History Week in 1980. In 1987, Congress (after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project) passed Pub. L. 100-9 designating March as Women's History Month. U.S. Presidents have issued proclamations on Women's History Month since 1988.

The University of Central Florida community joins together to celebrate Women's History Month across the multiple campuses with a wide variety of activities including workshops, film screenings, and WomanFest. Visit the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion's #neverthelesshepersisted](#) page to learn more about the scheduled events, and stop by the library to view the display wall which includes bras decorated at our Honor, Remember & Support workshop.

Here at the UCF Libraries, we have created a list of suggested, and favorite, books about women in both history and fiction. Please click on the read more link below to see the full book list with descriptions and catalog links.

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[A Short History of Women: A Novel](#) by Kate Walbert

A profoundly moving portrait of the complicated legacies of mothers and daughters, *A Short History of Women* chronicles five generations of women from the close of the nineteenth century through the early years of the twenty-first. Beginning in 1914 at the deathbed of Dorothy Trevor Townsend, a suffragette who starves herself for the cause, the novel traces the echoes of her choice in the stories of her descendants—a brilliant daughter who tries to escape the burden of her mother's infamy; a granddaughter who chooses a conventional path, only to find herself disillusioned; a great-granddaughter who wryly articulates the free-floating anxiety of post-9/11 Manhattan.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[A Uterus is a Feature, Not a Bug: the working woman's guide to overthrowing the patriarchy](#) by Sarah Lacy

A rallying cry for working mothers everywhere that demolishes the "distracted, emotional, weak" stereotype and definitively shows that these professionals are more focused, decisive, and stronger than any other force. There is copious academic research showing the benefits of working mothers on families and the benefits to companies who give women longer and more flexible parental leave. There are even findings that demonstrate women with multiple children actually perform better at work than those with none or one. Yet despite this concrete proof that working mothers are a lucrative asset, they still face the "Maternal Wall"—widespread unconscious bias about their abilities, contributions, and commitment. Fortunately, this prejudice is slowly giving way to new attitudes, thanks to more women starting their own businesses, and companies like Netflix, Facebook, Apple, and Google implementing more parent-friendly policies. But the most important barrier to change isn't about men. Women must rethink the way they see themselves after giving birth. As entrepreneur Sarah Lacy makes clear in this cogent, persuasive analysis and clarion cry, the strongest, most lucrative, and most ambitious time of a

woman's career may easily be after she sees a plus sign on a pregnancy test.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Ale, beer and brewsters in England: Women's work in a changing world, 1300-1600](#) by J. M. Bennett

Women brewed and sold most of the ale consumed in medieval England, but after 1350, men slowly took over the trade. By 1600, most brewers in London were male, and men also dominated the trade in many towns and villages. This book asks how, when, and why brewing ceased to be women's work and instead became a job for men. Employing a wide variety of sources and methods, Bennett vividly describes how brewsters (that is, female brewers) gradually left the trade. She also offers a compelling account of the endurance of patriarchy during this time of dramatic change.

Suggested by Judy Kuhns, UCF Connect Libraries

[Ban en Banlieue](#) by Bhanu Kapil

Bhanu Kapil's *Ban en Banlieue* follows a brown (black) girl as she walks home from school in the first moments of a riot. An April night in London, in 1979, is the axis of this startling work of overlapping arcs and varying approaches. By the end of the night, Ban moves into an incarnate and untethered presence, becoming all matter-- soot, meat, diesel oil and force--as she loops the city with the energy of global weather. Derived from performances in India, England and throughout the U.S., *Ban en Banlieue* is written at the limit of somatic and civic aims.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[BITCHfest: ten years of cultural criticism from the pages of Bitch magazine](#) edited by Lisa Jervis and Andi Zeisler

In the wake of *Sassy* and as an alternative to the more staid reporting of *Ms.*, *Bitch* was launched in the mid-nineties as a Xerox-and-staple zine covering the landscape of popular culture from a feminist perspective. Both unabashed in its love for the guilty pleasures of consumer culture and deeply thoughtful about the way the pop landscape reflects and impacts women's lives, *Bitch* grew to be a popular, full-scale magazine with a readership that stretched worldwide. Today it stands as a touchstone of hip, young feminist thought, looking with both wit and irreverence at the way pop culture informs feminism—and vice versa—and encouraging readers to think critically about the messages lurking behind our favorite television shows, movies, music, books, blogs, and the like. *BITCHfest* offers an assortment of the most provocative essays, reporting, rants, and raves from the magazine's first ten years, along with new pieces written especially for the collection. Smart, nuanced, cranky, outrageous, and clear-eyed, the anthology covers everything from a 1996 celebration of pre-scandal Martha Stewart to a more recent critical look at the "gayby boom"; from a time line of black women on sitcoms to an analysis of fat suits as the new blackface; from an attempt to fashion a feminist vulgarity to a reclamation of female virginity. It's a recent history of feminist pop-culture critique and an arrow toward feminism's future.

Suggest by Missy Murphey, Research & Information Services

[Bolshevik women](#) by B. E. Clements

Bolshevik Women is a history of the women who joined the Soviet Communist Party before 1921. Drawing on a database of more than five hundred individuals as well as on intensive research into the lives of the most prominent female Bolsheviks, Barbara Clements tells the fascinating story of the female Reds who survived imprisonment, built bombs, led armies into battle, and struggled to survive under Stalin. The study argues that women were important members of the Communist Party during its formative years.

Suggested by Judy Kuhns, UCF Connect Libraries

[Everybody Matters: my life giving voice](#) by Mary Robinson with Tessa Robinson

One of the most inspiring women of our age, Mary Robinson has spent her life in pursuit of a fairer world, becoming a powerful and influential voice for human rights around the globe. Displaying a gift for storytelling and remembrance, Robinson reveals, in *Everybody Matters*, what lies behind the vision, strength, and determination that made her path to prominence as compelling as any of her achievements. As an activist lawyer, she won landmark cases advancing the causes of women and marginalized people against the prejudices of the day, and in her twenty years in the Irish Senate she promoted progressive legislation, including the legalizing of contraception. In 1990, she shocked the political system by becoming Ireland's first woman president, redefining the role and putting Ireland firmly on the international stage. In her role as UN High Commissioner for human rights, beginning in 1997, she won acclaim for bringing attention to victims worldwide but was often frustrated both by the bureaucracy and by the willingness to compromise on principle. Now back in Ireland and heading her Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice, she has found the independence she needs to work effectively on behalf of the millions of poor around the world most affected by climate change.

Suggest by Missy Murphey, Research & Information Services

[Intimations: Stories](#) by Alexandra Kleeman

In her second book, a collection of twelve stories irresistibly seductive in their strangeness, Kleeman explores human life from beginning to end: the distress of birth into a world already formed; the brief and confusing period of "living" where we understand what is expected of us and struggle to do it; and the death-y period toward the end where we sense it is ending and will end only partially understood, at best.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[Lady Constance Lytton: aristocrat, suffragette, martyr](#) by Lyndsey Jenkins

Lady Constance Lytton was the most unlikely of suffragettes. The daughter of a Viceroy of India and herself a lady in waiting to the Queen, a chance encounter with a suffragette suddenly gave her life a purpose. She was converted to the cause of women's suffrage and went to prison, but Constance soon found that her name and class singled her out for privileged treatment. So she decided to go to prison in disguise, getting herself arrested in Liverpool. She was force-fed 8 times before her identity was discovered and she was released.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[My Antonia](#) by Willa Cather

My Antonia tells the story of several immigrant families who move to rural Nebraska. Antonia is the eldest daughter of the Shimerdas and is a bold and free-hearted young woman who becomes the center of narrator Jim Burden's attention. The novel offers many elements, but clearly documents the struggles of the hard-working immigrants that homesteaded the prairies, particularly the hardships suffered by women. My Antonia provides Willa Cather with a platform for commentary about women's rights, while weaving a story where romantic interests are ultimately bandied about by the uncontrolled changes that occur in people's lives. The final book of Willa Cather's prairie trilogy, My Antonia (1918) is considered her greatest accomplishment.

Suggested by Larry Cooperman, Research & Information Services

[Sally Ride: America's first woman in space](#) by Lynn Sherr

The definitive biography of Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, with exclusive insights from Ride's family and partner, by the ABC reporter who covered NASA during its transformation from a test-pilot boys' club to a more inclusive elite. Sally Ride made history as the first American woman in space. A member of the first astronaut class to include women, she broke through a quarter-century of white male fighter jocks when NASA chose her for the seventh shuttle mission, cracking the celestial ceiling and inspiring several generations of women. Sherr also writes about Ride's scrupulously guarded personal life—she kept her sexual orientation private—with exclusive access to Ride's partner, her former husband, her family, and countless friends and colleagues. Sherr draws from Ride's diaries, files, and letters. This is a rich biography of a fascinating woman whose life intersected with revolutionary social and scientific changes in America. Sherr's revealing portrait is warm and admiring but unsparing. It makes this extraordinarily talented and bold woman, an inspiration to millions, come alive.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[The Mothers](#) by Brit Bennett

Set within a contemporary black community in Southern California, Brit Bennett's mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love, and ambition. It begins with a secret. It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? The possibilities of the road not taken are a relentless haunt. In entrancing, lyrical prose, The Mothers asks whether a "what if" can be more powerful than an experience itself. If, as time passes, we must always live in servitude to the decisions of our younger selves, to the communities that have parented us, and to the decisions we make that shape our lives forever.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[**The Other Einstein**](#) by Marie Benedict

In the tradition of *The Paris Wife* and *Mrs. Poe*, *The Other Einstein* offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight. Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls. Most twenty-year-olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage. And then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might not be room for more than one genius in a marriage.

Suggested by Martha Cloutier, Circulation

[**The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim women write**](#) edited by Sabrina Mahfouz

The Things I Would Tell You brings together the works of over thirty established women writers of Muslim heritage, as well as young emerging artists currently leading the way on the UK's spoken word scene. Adhaf Soueif, Leila Aboulela, Warsan Shire, Kamila Shamsie and many others explore the universal themes of love, loss, identity, belonging and freedom in new fiction, poetry and prose specially written for this unique and timely anthology. Edited by award-winning poet and playwright Sabrina Mahfouz, *The Things I Would Tell You* showcases the talent and variety of female voices and is a creative call to arms for young women struggling to be heard.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[**This Will Be My Undoing: living at the intersection of black, female, and feminist in \(white\) America**](#) by Morgan Jerkins

In her collection of linked essays, Jerkins takes on perhaps one of the most provocative contemporary topics: What does it mean to "be"-- to live as, to exist as-- a black woman today? Doubly disenfranchised by race and gender, often deprived of a place within the mostly white mainstream feminist movement, black women are objectified, silenced, and marginalized with devastating consequences, in ways both obvious and subtle, that are rarely acknowledged in our country's larger discussion about inequality. Jerkins exposes the social, cultural, and historical story of black female oppression that influences the black community as well as the white, male-dominated world at large.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[**You Can't Touch My Hair: and other things I still have to explain**](#) by Phoebe Robinson

Being a black woman in America means contending with old prejudices and fresh absurdities every day. Comedian Phoebe Robinson has experienced her fair share over the years: she's been unceremoniously relegated to the role of "the black friend," as if she is somehow the authority on all things racial; she's been questioned about her love of U2 and Billy Joel ("isn't that ... white people music?"); she's been called "uppity" for having an opinion in the workplace; she's been followed around stores by security guards; and yes, people do ask her whether they can touch her hair all the time. Now, she's ready to

take these topics to the page--and she's going to make you laugh as she's doing it. Using her trademark wit alongside pop-culture references galore, Robinson explores everything from why Lisa Bonet is "Queen. Bae. Jesus," to breaking down the terrible nature of casting calls, to giving her less-than-traditional advice to the future female president, and demanding that the NFL clean up its act, all told in the same conversational voice that launched her podcast, 2 Dope Queens, to the top spot on iTunes. As personal as it is political, *You Can't Touch My Hair* examines our cultural climate and skewers our biases with humor and heart, announcing Robinson as a writer on the rise.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/171424207768/womens-history-month-began-as-a-week-long>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-womens-history-month2018/>