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Not My Mothers Sister: Generational Conflict and Third-Wave Feminism

By Astrid Henry

Indiana University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 288 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 0.7in. No matter how wise a mothers advice is, we listen to our peers. At least thats writer Naomi Wolfs take on the differences between her generation of feminists the third wave and the feminists who came before her and developed in the late 60s and 70s the second wave. In Not My Mothers Sister, Astrid Henry agrees with Wolf that this has been the case with American feminism, but says there are problems inherent in drawing generational lines. Henry begins by examining texts written by women in the second wave, and illustrates how that generation identified with, yet also disassociated itself from, its feminist foremothers. Younger feminists now claim the movement as their own by distancing themselves from the past. By focusing on feminisms debates about sexuality, they are able to reject the so-called victim feminism of Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin. Rejecting the orthodoxies of the second wave, younger feminists celebrate a womans right to pleasure. Henry asserts, however, that by ignoring diverse older voices, the new generation has oversimplified generational conflict and has underestimated the contributions of earlier feminists to womens rights. They have focused on...



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