

Edited by Elizabeth Storr Cohen and
Marlee J. Couling

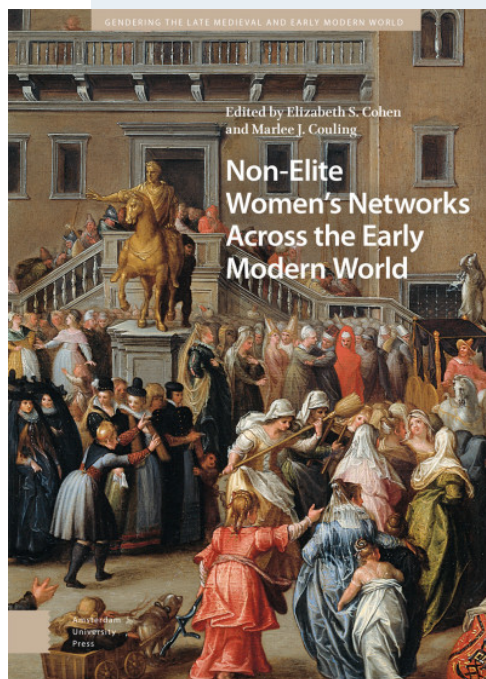
Non-Elite Women's Networks Across the Early Modern World

Non-elite or marginalized early modern women—among them the poor, migrants, members of religious or ethnic minorities, abused or abandoned wives, servants, and sex workers—have seldom left records of their experiences. Drawing on a variety of sources, including trial records, administrative paperwork, letters, pamphlets, hagiography, and picaresque literature, this volume explores how, as social agents, these doubly invisible women built and used networks and informal alliances to supplement the usual structures of family and community that often let them down. Ten essays, ranging widely in geography from the eastern Mediterranean to colonial Spanish America and in time from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, show how flexible, sometimes ad hoc relationships could provide crucial practical and emotional support for women who faced problems of livelihood, reputation, displacement, and violence.

BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth S. Cohen is Professor emerita of History at York University in Toronto.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

'Introduction' - Elizabeth S. Cohen and Marlee J. Couling

Part I: Mediterranean Crossings

1. 'Going Beyond Montagu: The Network of Subaltern Women on the Turkish Embassy, 1716-18' - Bernadette Andrea

2. 'Gendered Naming Practices among Coptic Christians in Sixteenth-Century Cairo: A Preliminary Assessment' - Shauna Huffaker

3. 'The "Queen of Algiers": An Enterprising Renegade in the Rome of Sixtus V' - Cristelle Baskins

4. 'An Exotic Migrant, Despina Basaraba Networks a New Life in Papal Rome circa 1600' - Elizabeth S. Cohen

Part II: Local Networks in Europe

5. 'Domestic Violence and Networks of Female Support in Seventeenth-Century England' - Marlee J. Couling

6. 'The Place-Based Professional Networks of Sex Workers in Sixteenth-Century Venice' - Sandra Weddle

7. '"Noi Povere Figlie": Professional and Social Strategies of the Musicians at the Venetian Ospedali Maggiori' - Vanessa M. Tonelli

8. 'Food and Drink Make Relationships: Female Alliances and Commensality in *Celestina* and *La Lozana andaluza*' - Min Ji Kang

Part III: Body and Spirit in Colonial Spanish America

9. '"Wall Neighbors", Mothers-in-Law, and Comadres: Spousal Violence and Networks of Plebeian Female Intimacy and Solidarity in Early Colonial Mexico City (1550–1650)' - Jacqueline Holler

10. 'Far from the Margins: Non-elite Single Women and Spiritual Networking in Colonial Guatemala' - Brianna Leavitt-Alcantara

Index .

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