

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK



LOUISE TOUPIN

INCLUDES INTERVIEWS WITH SILVIA FEDERICI
AND MARIAROSA DALLA COSTA

Wages for Housework

A History of an International
Feminist Movement, 1972-77

Louise Toupin

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*To the memory of my mother and my aunts,
housewives for whom a salary would no doubt
have enabled them to imagine their life differently.*

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**"An important resource for students of the bold and brilliant
1970s Wages for Housework movement"**

Kathi Weeks, author of *The Problem with Work*

**"A precise reconstruction of a legendary feminist campaign.
It includes a broad analysis of the theoretical background of
the claim for wages for housework as well as the controversies
around it. Exciting and well-written"**

Gisela Bock, Professor at the Free University Berlin

**"This tremendous book captures the different national styles
and the excitement of the Wages for Housework campaign
in the way that it transgressed taboos of that time around
money, marriage, lesbians, sexuality, and alliances
between 'good' and 'bad' women"**

Caroline Andrew, Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa

In this first-ever international history of the influential feminist movement Wages for Housework, Louise Toupin draws on extensive archival research in Italy, England, Germany, Switzerland, the United States, and Canada, as well as interviews with some of the movement's founders and activists. Featuring previously unpublished conversations with Silvia Federici and Mariarosa Dalla Costa, the book highlights the power and originality of the movement, detailing its theoretical and organizational innovations around the unrecognized forms of labour performed largely by women. Among many innovations, these pathbreaking activists approached gender, sexuality, race and class together in a way that anticipated intersectionality and a radical new understanding of sex work. *Wages for Housework* is a major contribution to the history of feminist and anti-capitalist movements and a provocative intervention into contemporary debates about the changing nature of work and the gendered labour market.

Louise Toupin has taught political science at Université du Québec à Montréal. She was a member of the Quebec Women's Liberation Front (1969–71) and co-authored numerous anthologies of activist and feminist writings.



FEMINISM
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