



Sex Wars: Sexual Dissent and Political Culture (10th Anniversary Edition)

By Lisa Duggan, Nan D. Hunter

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This book is a collection of essays written during the 1980s and 1990s, generated as parts of other, larger activist efforts going on at the time. Read together, the essays trace the progress of the conversations between different activist groups, and between the authors of the pieces, Lisa Duggan and Nan Hunter, creating a bridge between feminists, gay activists, those in politics, and those in the law.

Since the 1995 publication of *Sex Wars*, the political landscape has altered significantly. Yet the issues (and essays) are still relevant today. The anniversary edition contains a new chapter dealing with the changes in the law since the book's publication (Lawrence v. Texas, for example).

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The political and cultural battles over issues of sexuality that have affected the nation since the mid-1980s are explored in these 15 essays written over the past decade by Duggan (history, NYU), who co-founded the Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT), and Hunter (law, Brooklyn Law Sch.). With refreshing authority, passion, wit, clarity, and outspokenness, these articles, which appear in book form for the first time, seek to encourage dialog about, as they offer cogent feminist analysis of, such complex and provocative issues as the call for regulation/censorship of pornography by Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, the effects of Bowers v. Hardwick (in which the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Georgia's sodomy laws), the distinctions between queer theory and lesbian and gay studies, and the implications of the Sharon Kowalski/Karen Thompson case (Thompson fought Kowalski's parents unsuccessfully for the guardianship of her comatose lover). This historic compilation is an important contribution to the field of sexual politics. James E. Van Buskirk, San Francisco P.L.

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Review

... "willingness to probe rather than pronounce is part of the collection's strength, as is the excitement of a taking up a good fight.... they provide concrete suggestions for action and fresh thinking."

- "The Women's Review of Books

"With refreshing authority, passion, wit, clarity and outspokenness, these articles seek to encourage dialog about...such complex and provocative issues as the call for regulation/censorship of pornography by MacKinnon and Dworkin, the effects of Bowers v. Hardwick, and the distinctions between queer theory and lesbian and gay studies."

- "Library Journal

"This historic compilation is an important contribution to the field of sexual politics."

- "Library Journal

"Duggan and Hunter have been important voices in the sex wars. Their activism, dedication, and vision are amply demonstrated in the writings collected here. These indespensable documents are scholarly, passionate, sobering, and contain many pointed lessons that still scream for assimilation by mainstream feminism and other progressive constituencies."

- Gayle Rubin, University of California, Santa Cruz

"Sex Wars is an invaluable contribution to the current debate on feminism and sex. Its essays reveal with cogent and dismaying clarity the repressive logic that links anti-pornography feminism with religious fundamentalism and homophobic paranoia. Feminists who have been struggling to combat this all-too-prevalent logic will be grateful for this new and powerful weapon in our own sex war' arsenal."

- Ellen Willis

About the Author

Lisa Duggan is Associate Professor of History and American Studies at New York University. She was founding member of the Feminist Anti-Censorship Task Force, and has written widely on sexual politics.

Nan D. Hunter is Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School. She is a widely recognized authority on health law issues such as reproductive rights, AIDS, and consumer protection. She is a former lawyer for the ACLU, where she was a founding director of Projects on Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS.

Users Review

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Charles Howell:

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