

Edited by Jessica Lowell Mason, Nicole Crevar

# Madwomen in Social Justice Movements, Literatures, and Art

WOMEN'S STUDIES

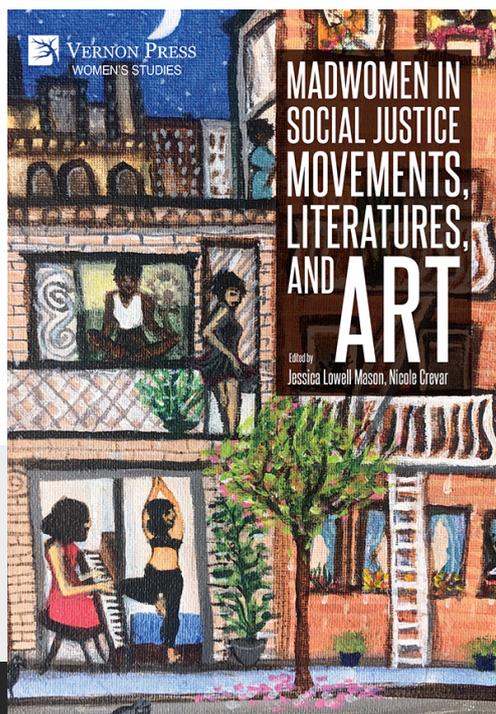
## About the editors

**Jessica Lowell Mason** is a Doctoral Candidate (ABD) in Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, a Teaching Assistant at the University at Buffalo, and an instructor in the College Writing Program at Buffalo State College. She is a facilitator with the Herstory Writers Workshop, co-facilitating the ongoing workshop "Memoirs to (Re) Imagine Mental Healthcare," and a fellow with the Northeast Modern Language Association. Mason is the co-founder of "Madwomen in the Attic," a grassroots feminist mental health and madness literacy organization, founded in 2017 in Western New York. She has taught courses related to writing and rhetoric, gender, sexuality, culture, media literacy, feminist theory, and public policy for the past seven years. In 2014, Mason was awarded the Gloria Anzaldúa Rhetorician Award by the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Some of her poems, articles, and reviews have been published by 'Sinister Wisdom', 'Lambda Literary', 'Gender Focus', 'The Comstock Review', 'Diverse Voices Quarterly', 'Lavender Review', 'IthacaLit', 'The Feminist Wire', 'Mad in America', SUNY Buffalo's 'Romance Studies Journal', 'Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Popular Culture and Pedagogy', and 'Praeger'. Her first full-length book of poetry, 'Straight Jacket', was published in 2019 by Finishing Line Press.

**Nicole Crevar** is a Doctoral Candidate (ABD) in English Literature and a Teaching Assistant at the University of Arizona. Her research centers on critiquing the larger power structures that plague our contemporary society and produce vast inequalities—e.g., the patriarchy, racism, and neoliberalism—and analyzing how those structures cause varying forms of trauma for individuals. During her doctoral coursework, Nicole earned a Ph.D. minor in Social, Cultural, and Critical theory, which included a seminar on Feminist Social Movements. However, her interest in mad studies and feminism extends back to her work and training as a Body Image Peer Leader during her undergraduate career. Her dissertation research on neoliberal trauma in contemporary American literature interrogates themes of social justice and mental health and relies heavily on trauma studies/theory. Nicole contributed a chapter, "Chicana Poetry and Activism via Digital Communities in 'Poem 25 ~ Giving

Voice," in 'Post-Humanist Nomadisms across non-Oedipal Spatiality' (Vernon Press, 2021).

Nicole is the Graduate Co-Director of Wildcat Writers (UArizona), a college-pathway, community-engagement program that partners Title I high school students (Tucson) with UA college writing students to foster unparalleled educational opportunities for underrepresented populations.



## Summary

'Madwomen in Social Justice Movements, Literatures, and Art' boldly reasserts the importance of the Madwoman more than four decades after the publication of Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's seminal work in feminist literary criticism, 'The Madwoman in the Attic'. Since Gilbert and Gubar's work was published, the Madwoman has reemerged to do important work, rock the academic boat, and ignite social justice agency inside and outside of academic spaces, moving beyond the literary context that defined the Madwoman in the late 20th century. In this dynamic collection of essays, scholars, creative writers, and Mad activists come together to (re)define the Madwoman in pluralistic and expansive ways and to realize new potential in Mad agency. This collection blazes new directions of thinking through Madness as a gendered category, comprised of a combination of creative works that (re)imagine the figure of the Madwoman, speeches in which Mad-identifying artists and writers reclaim the label of "Madwoman," and scholarly essays that articulate ambitious theories of the Madwoman. The collection is an interdisciplinary scholarly resource that will appeal to multiple academic fields, including literary studies, disability studies, feminist studies, and Mad studies. Additionally, the work contributes to the countermovement against colonial, sanist, patriarchal, and institutional social practices that continue to silence women and confine them to the metaphorical attic. Appealing to a broad audience of readers, 'Madwomen in Social Justice Movements, Literatures, and Art' is a cutting-edge inquiry into the implications of Madness as a theoretical tool in which dissenting, deviant, and abnormal women and gender non-conforming writers, artists, and activists open the door to Mad futurities.

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