

PRAISE FOR *Women and the Gift Economy: A Radically Different Worldview is Possible*
edited by Genevieve Vaughan

Finally! This is the book we urgently need in these neoliberal, destructive, disoriented times. We all know that a profound change in our economy and culture is necessary, that we need to think in another way. But how? The authors of this collection of articles—all feminists, all peace workers, from the North and the South—demonstrate convincingly that “a radically different world view is possible” when we look at the world with Genevieve Vaughan’s radically different paradigm: gift giving instead of the coercive and compulsive exchange paradigm of the market economy.

—VERONIKA BENNHOLDT-THOMSEN, co-author of *The Subsistence Perspective: Beyond the Globalized Economy* and *Women: The Last Colony*

Wow, what a great book. If more people could embrace this kind of thinking the world would be a much better place. In the tradition of my people one’s status in society is not based upon how much wealth one possesses and displays but rather it is based upon what one gives away. Thus according to our traditions the creators of this volume deserve special recognition as their work is a gift for the rest of us who have the privilege of reading it.

—D. MEMEE LAVELL-HARVARD, President, Ontario Native Women’s Association and Vice President, Native Women’s Association of Canada

Those of us honoured to know Genevieve Vaughan know that, for at least twenty years, she has been working tirelessly towards defining and describing the “gift economy, presenting it as a workable alternative to patriarchal capitalism. This anthology, *Women and the Gift Economy*, offers the fruit of myriad scholars on the subject, examining the gift economy from nearly every imaginable vantage point—from history, spirituality, sexuality, and matriarchal social structure to language, finance, childcare, and warfare. Moreover, Indigenous scholars working from their own cultures’ ways of knowing receive a representation and a respect equal to what is afforded their European and Euroamerican colleagues. *Women and the Gift Economy* is guaranteed to guide the reader into new and invigorating paradigms, clarifying the economic choices facing humanity.

—BARBARA ALICE MANN, author of *Iroquoian Women: The Gantowisas* and editor of and contributor to *Daughters of Mother Earth*

Genevieve Vaughan has for decades been active in progressive causes—generous with her time, energy, and material resources. Now she gives the best gift of all: her elegant, intelligent, and transformative thinking. This is, simply, a visionary book. Read it, let it into your heart and brain—and you will change the world.

—ROBIN MORGAN

The gift economy is prevalent in most ancient Indigenous societies the world over, many still existing today. Gifting operates especially well among people with fewer resources, in rural areas and urban townships. It is through sharing gifts that many of us survive. Genevieve Vaughan's feminist gift economy is a reminder to all of us about this ancient practice still prevalent in many of our societies, especially in Africa and the global South more broadly, and her life's work in this area perfectly epitomizes the philosophies underpinning the book: it is the gift economy in practice.

—BERNEDETTE MUTHIEN, poet and activist, director of ENGENDER, South Africa

This collection, in its critique of patriarchal capitalism and in its call for a logic of gift-giving over exchange, makes possible a new understanding of—and appreciation for—the true economic and social value of mothering. In this, the book is an invaluable contribution to motherhood studies.

—ANDREA O'REILLY, Associate Professor, York University, and author of *Toni Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Heart*

Based on Genevieve Vaughan's theory of the gift economy, this book offers a radically different world view for 21st century feminism with powerful implications for challenging patriarchy and the market economy in building a sustainable, safe, equitable world society. In the introduction Vaughan outlines the logic and impact of the gift economy. Vaughan's approach provides an alternative paradigm in which "mothering" in all the senses of the term is at the foundation of the social model for being human. Together with the articles that follow her introduction, the book provides a unified feminist philosophy in which the logic of social interaction is based on "gifting" that is, giving to nurture growth by satisfying needs in response to which the receiver models the giver by giving to others. This is a must read for feminists in all countries for it provides a coherent philosophical system based on the power of nurturing for rethinking political and economic thought just as the Enlightenment once based its philosophical innovations on the power of human reason.

—PEGGY REEVES SANDAY, Professor of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania and author of *Women at the Center: Life in a Modern Matriarchy*

Anyone who wonders why a tree giving us oxygen is only profitable when it's cut down, or why a train wreck increases the Gross Domestic Product but nurturing children does not, is on the way to rejecting patriarchal capitalism. Genevieve Vaughan and her collection of essays by activists and visionaries show us an alternate economic worldview that existed for most of human history, and could exist again. This brave and path-breaking book will give you hope—and hope is a form of planning."

—GLORIA STEINEM

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EDITED BY GENEVIEVE VAUGHAN



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Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Introduction: A Radically Different Worldview is Possible <i>Genevieve Vaughan</i>	1
I. The Gift Economy, Past and Present	
Indigenous Knowledge and Gift Giving: Living in Community <i>Jeannette Armstrong</i>	41
Pan Dora Revisited: From Patriarchal Woman-Blaming to a Feminist Gift Imaginary <i>Kaarina Kailo</i>	50
The Gift Logic of Indigenous Philosophies in the Academy <i>Rauna Kuokkanen</i>	71
She Gives the Gift of Her Body <i>Vicki Noble</i>	84
The Goddess Temple of Sekhmet: A Gift Economy Project <i>Patricia Pearlman</i>	96
Matriarchal Society and the Gift Paradigm: Motherliness as an Ethical Principle <i>Heide Goettner-Abendroth</i>	99
Significs and Semioethics: Places of the Gift in Communication Today <i>Susan Petrilli</i>	108

The Biology of Business: Crisis as a Gifting Opportunity
Elisabet Sabtouris 121

II. Gifts Exploited by the Market

Capitalist Patriarchy and the Negation of Matriarchy: The Struggle
for a “Deep” Alternative
Claudia von Werlhof 139

Big Mountain Black Mesa: The Beauty Way
Louise Benally 154

The Tragedy of the Enclosures: An Eco-Feminist Perspective on
Selling Oxygen and Prostitution in Costa Rica
Ana Isla 157

Real Bodies, Place-Bound Work and Transnational Homemaking:
A Feminist Project
Mechthild Hart 171

The Rural Women’s Movement in South Africa: Land Reform
and HIV/AIDs
Sizani Ngubane 181

Endangered Species: The Language of Our Lives
Margaret Randall 187

Facing the Shadow of 9-11
Carol Brouillet 193

Heterosexism and the Norm of Normativity
Genevieve Vaughan 199

III: Gifts in the Shadow of Exchange

The Khoekhoe Free Economy: A Model for the Gift
Yvette Abrahams 217

Gift Giving Across Borders
Maria Jimenez 222

The Gift Economy in the Caribbean: The Gift and the Wind <i>Peggy Antrobus</i>	230
The Children of the World: A Gift <i>Assetou Madeleine Auditore</i>	235
Solidarity Economics: Women's Banking Networks in Senegal <i>Rabia Adelkarim-Chikh</i>	238
Women's Funding Partnerships <i>Tracy Gary</i>	241
Gift Giving and New Communication Technologies <i>Andrea Alvarado Vargas and María Suárez Toro</i>	248
Trapped by Patriarchy: Can I Forgive Men? <i>Erella Shadmi</i>	253
Women's Community Gifting: A Feminist Key to an Alternative Paradigm <i>Linda Christiansen-Ruffman</i>	257
IV. Gift Giving for Social Transformation	
Indigenous Women and Traditional Knowledge: Reciprocity is the Way of Balance <i>Mililani Trask</i>	293
Supryia and the Reviving of a Dream: Toward a New Political Imaginary <i>Corinne Kumar</i>	301
Reflecting on Gifting and the Gift Economy in El Salvador <i>Marta Benavides</i>	310
From Forced Gifts to Free Gifts <i>Paola Melchiori</i>	318
The Gift of Community Radio <i>Frieda Werden</i>	327

Giftling at the Burning Man Festival <i>Renea Roberts</i>	353
Activism: A Creative Gift for a Better World <i>Brackin Firecracker</i>	356
Women's Giving: Feminist Transformation and Human Welfare <i>Angela Miles</i>	364
Position Statement for a Peaceful World	375
Index	381

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