

# Feminist philosophy of science: history, contributions, and challenges

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**Abstract** Feminist philosophy of science has led to improvements in the practices and products of scientific knowledge-making, and in this way it exemplifies socially relevant philosophy of science. It has also yielded important insights and original research questions for philosophy. Feminist scholarship on science thus presents a worthy thought-model for considering how we might build a more socially relevant philosophy of science—the question posed by the editors of this special issue. In this analysis of the history, contributions, and challenges faced by feminist philosophy of science, I argue that engaged case study work and interdisciplinarity have been central to the success of feminist philosophy of science in producing socially relevant scholarship, and that its future lies in the continued development of robust and dynamic philosophical frameworks for modeling social values in science. Feminist philosophers of science, however, have often encountered marginalization and persistent misunderstandings, challenges that must be addressed within the institutional and intellectual culture of American philosophy.

**Keywords** Feminist philosophy · Feminist science studies · Gender bias · Women in philosophy · Interdisciplinarity · Case study methodology

Scholars who study gender and science are engaged in a field of inquiry within philosophy of science that is both socially relevant and yields important and original research questions for philosophy. Feminist philosophers of science have worked to advance the status of women in the science professions, to critique and correct sexist science, and to critically evaluate our models of scientific reason and practice in light of the findings of gender studies of science. In doing so, they raise novel philosophical

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