



# Figuring Modesty in Feminist Discourse Across the Americas, 1633-1700

Tamara Harvey, George Mason University, USA  
Women and Gender in the Early Modern World



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Inventive in its approach and provocative in its analysis, this study offers fresh readings of the arguments and practices of four seventeenth-century Euro-American women: Anne Bradstreet, Anne Hutchinson, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and Marie de l'Incarnation. Tamara Harvey here compares functionalist treatments of the body by these women, offering a new way to think of corporeality as a device in literary and religious expressions of modesty by women. In doing so, Harvey explores the engagement of these women in ongoing religious, political, scientific and social debates that would have been understood by the authors' contemporaries in both Europe and America.

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Introduction: Modesty's charge: feminist functionalism and 17th-century feminist theory; 'Now sisters ... impart your usefulness, and force': Anne Bradstreet's feminist functionalism; 'Cuerpo luminoso': body and soul in Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's *Promero Sueño*; 'I doe not thinke the body that dyes shall rise agayne': Anne Hutchinson's mortalism as feminist functionalism; *Femmes fortes*: mysticism and the female apostolate of Marie de l'Incarnation; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

## About the Author

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