About the Contributors

**Nazmunnessa Mahtab** is Professor (Supernumerary) in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She is one of the founding members involved in the establishment of the Department of Women’s Studies in March 2000. She pursued a Masters’ Degree in Politics, with specialization in Public Administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London, in 1975. She completed her Ph.D. from the University of Delhi, India in 1982. She was a Senior Full Bright Scholar at George Washington University, Washington D.C. in 1989 and worked on Women in Administration. Her areas of specialization include: Women and Poverty, Gender and Development; Violence Against Women; CEDAW and Women’s Rights; Gender and Governance, Women in Public Policy and Leadership, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. She has published three books: 1) Women in Bangladesh: From Inequality to Empowerment (2007); 2) Introduction to Women and Gender Studies: Selected Texts on Issues and Concepts, (2011); 3) Women, Gender and Development: Contemporary Issues (2012, 2015). Her recent publications include: 1) “Women’s Transformational Leadership in Bangladesh: Potentials and Challenges,” published in Women, Political Struggles and Gender Equality in South Asia edited by Margaret Alston, Palgrave Macmillan, August 2014; 2) A. co-edited book entitled: “Digital Public Administration and E-Government in Developing Nations,” published by IGI Global Publishers, USA, in August, 2014.

**Sara Parker** has worked in school of social sciences at Liverpool John Moores University since 1994. Her PHD focused on gender education and empowerment in Nepal and she has co-led a British Council Higher Education link between Liverpool Nepal and Bangladesh. She has published on the gendered impact of conflict on school children in Nepal as well as on participatory development and non-formal education. She is currently launching a Community Interest Company called Fair Connections to help develop awareness and understanding of the positive impacts of fair trade handmade production and help develop friendship links between schools in different countries.
Farah Kabir has been working with ActionAid Bangladesh as the Country Director since June 2007. Over 19 years of vast experience in the field of development and research has made Farah Kabir a human rights activist. Over the last seven years, as the Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, Farah Kabir has been engaged in persistent advocacy for women rights, rights of the people with disability, marginalized and climate justice. Farah Kabir, who commenced her career with the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), also she has a research experience with a host of publications especially on Women in Politics to her credit. For her significant contribution in women’s rights movement of Bangladesh, Farah Kabir won the prestigious “Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012”. Ms Kabir worked with British Council for nearly ten years both in Bangladesh and United Kingdom. She is an active member of many professional societies: was a member of the Governance Board of Napier University, Edinburgh Scotland, a member of Board of Trustees for Zero Tolerance, Scotland,a board member of Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), advisory panel member of LDC Independent Expert Group on Post 2015 supported by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Member of the Funding Committee of Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF). Farah Kabir has been associated with the media since University life as a newscaster on both National Television and Radio. Since 2015, Farah has been the Chair of the Board of the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and on the Gender Advisory Committee of CIVICUS. She has been a Member of the Nansen Initiative Consultative Committee till 2016.

Tania Haque is an Associate Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka. She graduated in Public Administration from Dhaka University. She also obtained her first MA degree in Public Administration from the same University. She was nominated by the Department, under a Dutch fellowship to study at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) at The Hague from where she received her second Master’s degree. She has completed her MA in Development Studies (specialization in Women, Gender and Development) at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands. Her research work for Masters Programme focused on the redistribution of work in the family. She served as the Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, from April 2012 to April 2015. She is currently engaged on working on her PhD dissertation on Unpaid Care Work; Recognition or Redistribution. She has several publications to her credit. Her areas of interest include Care economy, Violence against women, Feminization of Poverty and Empowerment.
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**Aditi Sabur** is an Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh where she teaches undergraduate courses on Feminist theories, Women Society and Culture, Gender and Family, and Women and Religion. She holds an M.Phil. in Gender and Development from University of Bergen, Norway, and MSS and BSS degree in Women and Gender Studies from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her main area of interest includes gender and construction of identities, masculinities and fatherhood, intersectionality, feminist theories and methodologies, gender, religion and minority issues etc. Currently, she is working on construction of fatherhood in Bangladesh.

**Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad** is currently working at University of Dhaka as a lecturer and a freelance consultant in the field of Gender and Development. Formerly, he has worked with NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice as a young researcher, where his primary job responsibility was to conduct a study on the impact of development interventions on women’s position in gender power relations; as a consultant with OXFAM Bangladesh, where he analysed gender consciousness and sustainability of one of their major projects in Bangladesh using qualitative analysis. Before that as a research fellow of ‘USAID small research grants for master’s students and young teachers 2010’, he had analysed the gendered implications of one of the main development projects of USAID/Bangladesh focused on sustainable natural disaster mitigation. He has also gained first-hand field experience regarding international development by joining the USAID outreach program and participating in a students’ exchange program at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand on gender and development.

**Fariah Chowdhury** is a grassroots community organizer, writer and educator based out of Toronto, Canada. Her graduate school research centres on themes of nation building and citizenship discourses in a North American context. Her work on Canada’s changing citizenship regime, and how migrant justice movements rooted in grassroots communities’ challenge everyday notions of citizenship, belonging and illegality has won several awards within both writing and activist communities in Toronto.

**Shaheen A. Chowdhury** is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Dr. Chowdhury received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Southern Illinois University. She currently teaches Introduction to
Lubna Ferdowsi is an Erasmus scholar (Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s Degree in Women’s and Gender Studies, GEMMA 2010-2012, the University of Hull (UK), with a mobility semester at the University of Lodz (Poland)), currently working as a PhD researcher in University of Hull, UK on Bangladeshi women in London. During her professional career, she was the coordinator of the International Violence against Girls’ Campaign (2008-2010) at Action-Aid International, and the convener of South Asian Student’s Solidarity Forum, INSA (Imagine a New South-Asia) (2009). She currently holds the position of Professional Development Coordination in Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA), South Asian Chapter Board and the Program Representative for GEMMA. Prioritizing the gender equality and ethnic diversity, her aim is to motivate more EMA graduates into professional development and career management skills in keeping them updated on advanced training opportunities, especially on the ‘transferable skills’ to complement subject specific training, which might provide graduates a competitive edge when forging a research career or entering employment. In addition to build bridges between affluent and under privileged women and ethnic groups in South Asia region, and share knowledge she acquired and her experiences during her studies in the EU.

Afsana Islam is Lecturer in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She attained her Honours and Master’s Degree in Women and Gender Studies from the same university in the year 2013.Since then she had actively participated in several field researches relevant to masculinities and women’s empowerment; engaging men and boys in preventing violence against women. Her research and teaching interests include: Gender inequality, masculinities, sexual and reproductive health education, women’s movement and women’s empowerment.

Mehbuba Jabin started her journey in Development arena and gained first-hand field experiences as a ‘Senior Sector Specialist ‘at Gender Justice and Diversity Division at BRAC; after completing her graduation and post-graduation in Women and Gender Studies from University of Dhaka. She also worked as a lecturer at the “Department of Sociology and Gender Studies”, Central Women’s University, Dhaka. During her study period she was selected as a fellow of “SANAM Fellowship Programme 2011” held in Nepal and also presented a paper at “2nd Men Engage
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Global Symposium 2014”. She is a member of Men Engage global network. Her area of interests includes Masculinities, Engaging young men for gender justice, ICT and media. She did several researches on these topics and also presented several papers on different international conferences. Currently she is working as “Deputy Manager” at Gender Justice and Diversity Division, BRAC.

Fatema Rouson Jahan is an assistant professor in the department of Women and Gender Studies at University of Dhaka. Her research interest lies in gender and consumption studies, global economy and gender dimension of the labour market. Her work has been published in national and international journals including Social Science Review, Journal of Bangladesh Studies, Gender & Development and Culture, Health & Sexuality. She is currently enrolled into a PhD programme in the department of Geography at University College London. Her PhD research focuses on the clothing consumption of women factory workers in Bangladeshi garment industry.

Masreka Khan is a Lecturer in Economics department and Researcher in African Economic and Social Research Centre (AFESAM) at Erciyes University, Turkey. She received her Master’s degree in Gender and Policy from London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) in 2012. She is equally engaged in international development sector. Her former positions include Technical Manager- Research, Monitoring and Evaluation for multi-country projects at CARE Bangladesh and Researcher at East London Fawcett Society, UK. Her research interests focus on dynamics of inequalities, issues surroundings labour market participation, livelihoods strategies in geographically challenging contexts, globalization and poverty in light of gender and race.

Rashida A. Khanum is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She obtained M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Dhaka in 1971 and M.A. in Philosophy from McMaster University, Canada, in 1982. Her research interests include: Feminist Philosophy, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind and Environmental Ethics. She is the author of Contemporary Gender Issues (Dhaka: A H Development Publishing House, 2012). She is also the author of three books published in Bengali language on Ethics, Environmental Ethics and Feminism. She presented papers at the 13th and the 14th International Conferences of the International Association of Women Philosophers (IAPH), held in Seoul, South Korea and at the University of Western Ontario, Canada in 2008 and 2010 respectively. Her forthcoming publications include “Feminist Methodology from Philosophical Perspective”, in Empowerment, vol. 15, 2015.
Fariba Parsa is the founder and director a project at George Mason University called Women’s E-Learning in Leadership, (WELL). It aims to develop leadership education for female students living in developing countries. Dr. Parsa has a MA in political sciences with specialization democracy and gender equality, and PhD in social sciences focus on Political Islamic Ideologies. Dr. Parsa has been post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. In 2012-2013, she was a visiting scholar at the University of Maryland and since 2014 she is affiliated to George Mason University, and worked as Assistant Research professor at Women and Gender Studies. She has more than 20 years’ experiences in national, International and non-profit women organization in Denmark. Dr. Parsa was elected as a board member in a number of organizations in Denmark, such as the Danish National Women Council and the UN- Association of Denmark, National Committee for UNESCO, Danish Council for European Policy and Danish National Council for Human Rights. She contributed to Danish newspapers, national TV and Radio on Iranian Politics, women’s rights and political Islam.

J. Sunita Peacock, Associate Professor of English received her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University (1996). She currently teaches World, Eastern, Interpreting Literature, British Literature I (Old and Middle English Literature- survey course), British Literature II (Restoration-World War I), Literature Seminar (Global Immigrant and Women Writers) at Slippery Rock University, PA. USA. Dr. Peacock has published in refereed journals, such as Commonwealth Novel in English, Pakistani Women’s Journal, International Journal of the Humanities, South Asian Review, Mosaic, Forum on Public Policy (Oxford University UK) Journal of Literature and Art and essays in two anthologies respectively: Violence and the Body: Race, Gender and the State. (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2003) Transnationalism and the Asian American Heroine: Essays on Literature, Film, Myth and Media (McFarland and Company Inc. London, 2010). Her research interests include, working on the identities of immigrant women from South Asian nations and also fusion research in the discipline of business and marketing, which investigates matrimony and the perspective of women in advertising and media both in the U.S. and India.

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