

The Women Founders

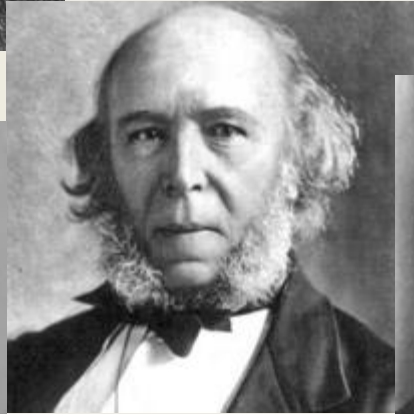
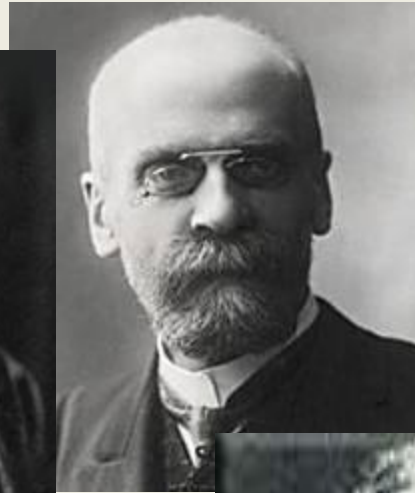
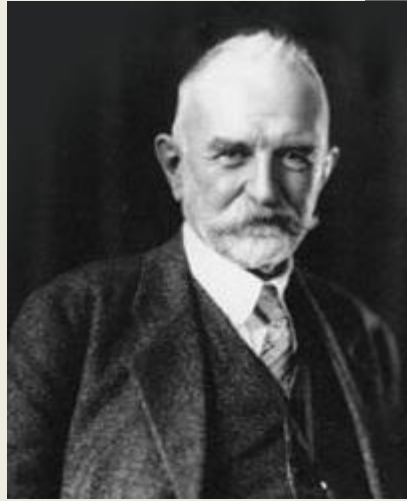
Sociology and Social Theory

1830-1930

Patricia Madoo Lengermann

Jill Niebrugge-Brantley

The history of sociology's theories is conventionally told as a history of white male agency...



History of Sociology's Theories

This history is presented as an account of the natural way things occurred, a chronicle beyond the powers of human tellers to change.

A sociology is a systematically
developed consciousness of society
and social relations.
--Dorothy E. Smith





Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People (2005)

Mothering for Schooling -- with Alison Griffith (2004)

**Writing the Social: Critique, Theory, and Investigations
(1999)**

**The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology
of Knowledge (1990)**

**Texts, Facts, and Femininity: Exploring the Relations of
Ruling (1990)**

**The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology
(1987)**

**Feminism and Marxism: A Place to Begin, A Way to Go
(1977)**

**Women Look at Psychiatry: I'm Not Mad, I'm Angry --
Collection edited by Smith and David (1975) Press Gang
Publishing**

Three Claims

- #1: Women have always been significantly involved in creating sociology.
- #2 Women have always made distinctive and important contributions to social theory.
- #3 Women's contributions to sociology and social theory have been written out of the record of the discipline's history.

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Politics

of

Gender

Politics

of

Knowledge

Focus on the lives and work of
15 classical female theorists.

Harriet Martineau

1802-1876



Jane Addams

1860-1935



Charlotte Perkins Gilman

1860-1935



Anna Julia Cooper

1858-1964



Ida B. Wells-Barnett



Marianne Weber

1870-1954



Beatrice Potter Webb

1858-1943



The Chicago Women's School of Sociology



The Chicago Women's School

Edith Abbott 1876-1957

Grace Abbott 1878-1939



The Chicago Women's School

Sophonisba Breckinridge 1866-1948



The Chicago Women's School

Florence Kelley 1859-1932



The Chicago Women's School

Frances Kellor 1873-1952



The Chicago Women's School

Julia Lathrop 1858-1932



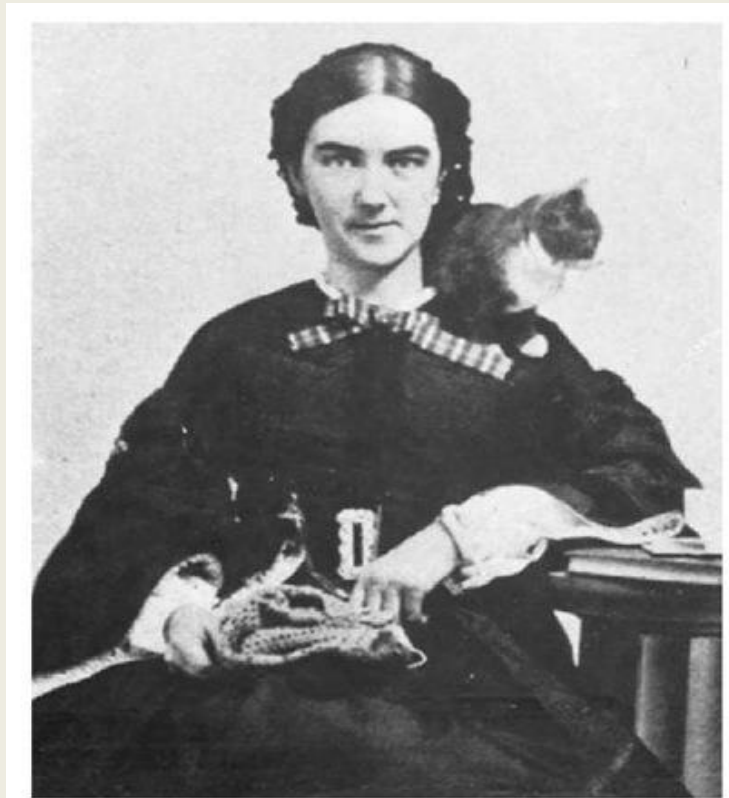
The Chicago Women's School

Annie Marion MacLean 1870-1934



The Chicago Women's School

Marion Talbot 1858-1947



Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley

Invisibility vs Erasure

Invisibility

- Not being seen
- Never having one's presence acknowledged as significant

Erasure

- Having once been a presence and then having been written out

Argument for Erasure

#1

Almost all these women were well-known public figures in their lifetime.

Argument for Erasure

#2

...They created social theory and did sociology in the same times and places as the male founders.

Argument for Erasure

#3

They were widely recognized by their contemporaries, including male sociologists, as significant social analysts.

Argument for Erasure

#4

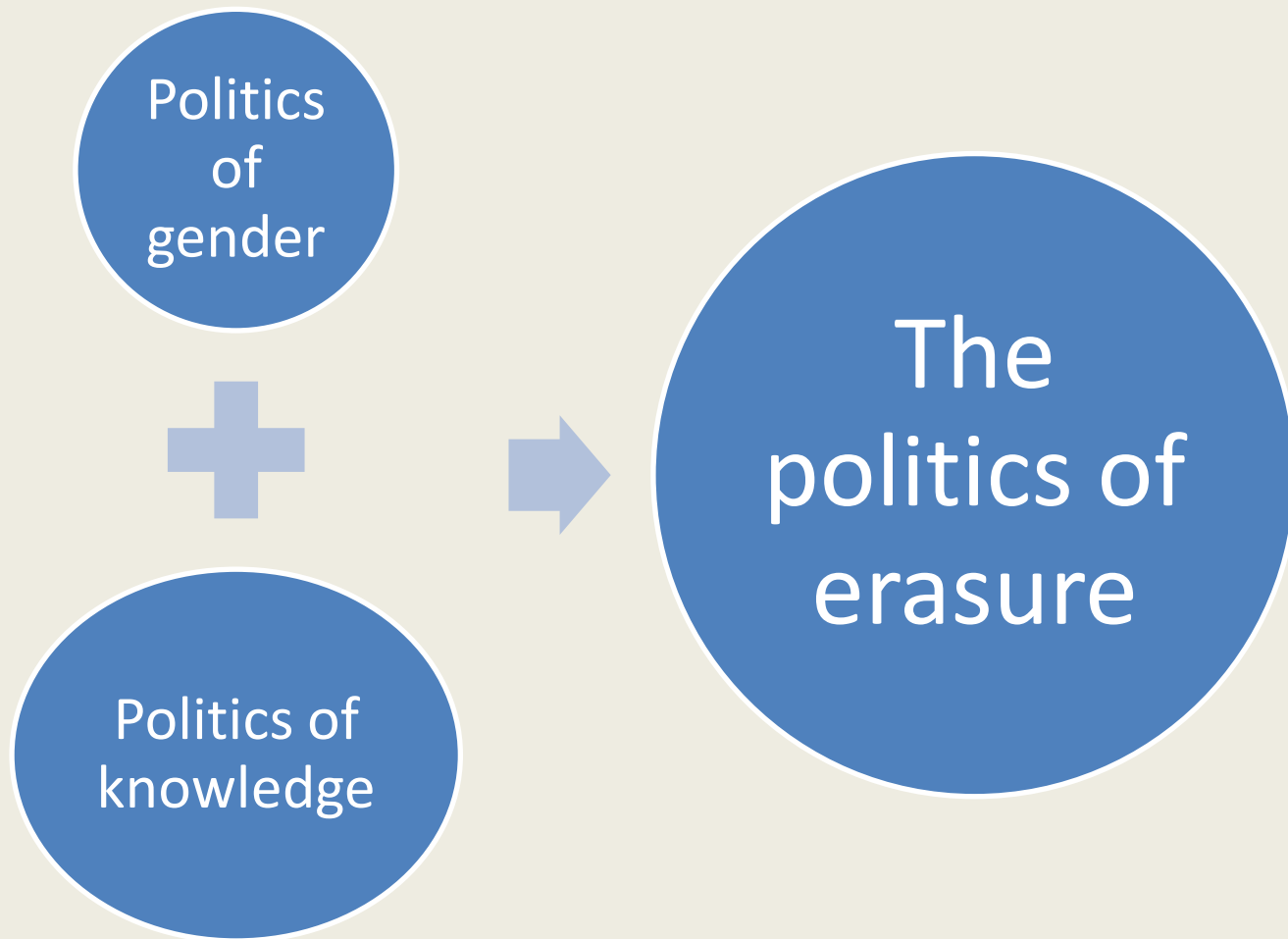
They all acted as members of a sociological community.

Erasure

[This] erasure can be understood in terms of a series of power processes involving the conferral or denial of authority, understood as 'a form of power that is a distinctive capacity to get things done in words.'

(D. Smith, 1987:29 cited in Lengermann & Niebrugge-Brantley 1998:10)

The Politics of Erasure



Politics of Gender

...women's tenuous hold on authority in a man-made culture.

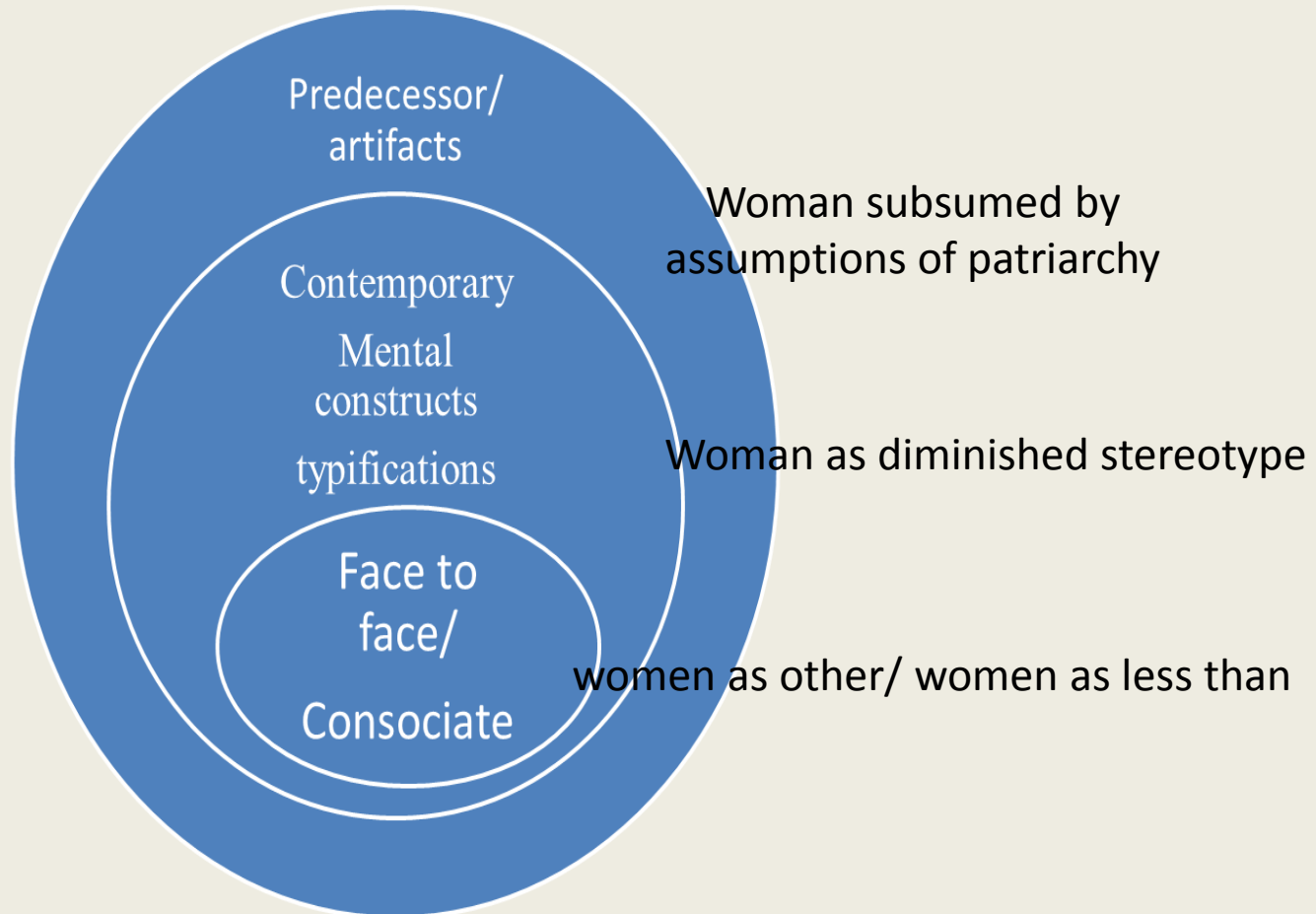
Politics of Gender

“...women’s tenuous hold on authority in a man-made culture.”

Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley’s feminist application of Alfred Schutz



Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley's Feminist Application of Alfred Schutz to the Politics of Gender



Politics of Knowledge

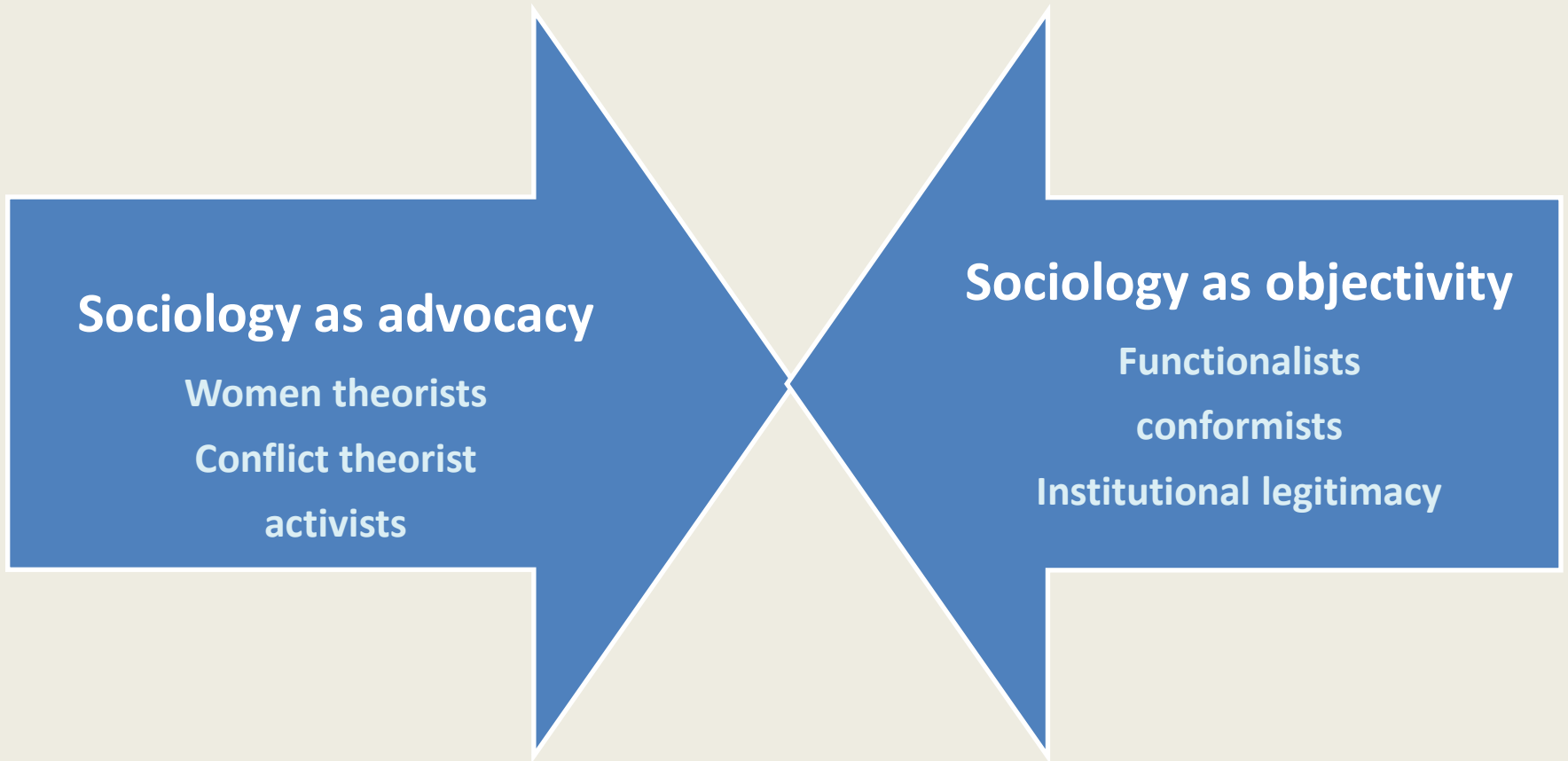


**Sociology as
advocacy**

The diagram consists of two large, blue, arrow-shaped boxes pointing towards each other, meeting at a central point. The left arrow points right and contains the text 'Sociology as advocacy'. The right arrow points left and contains the text 'Sociology as objectivity'. The background is a light beige color.

**Sociology as
objectivity**

Politics of Knowledge



Politics of Knowledge

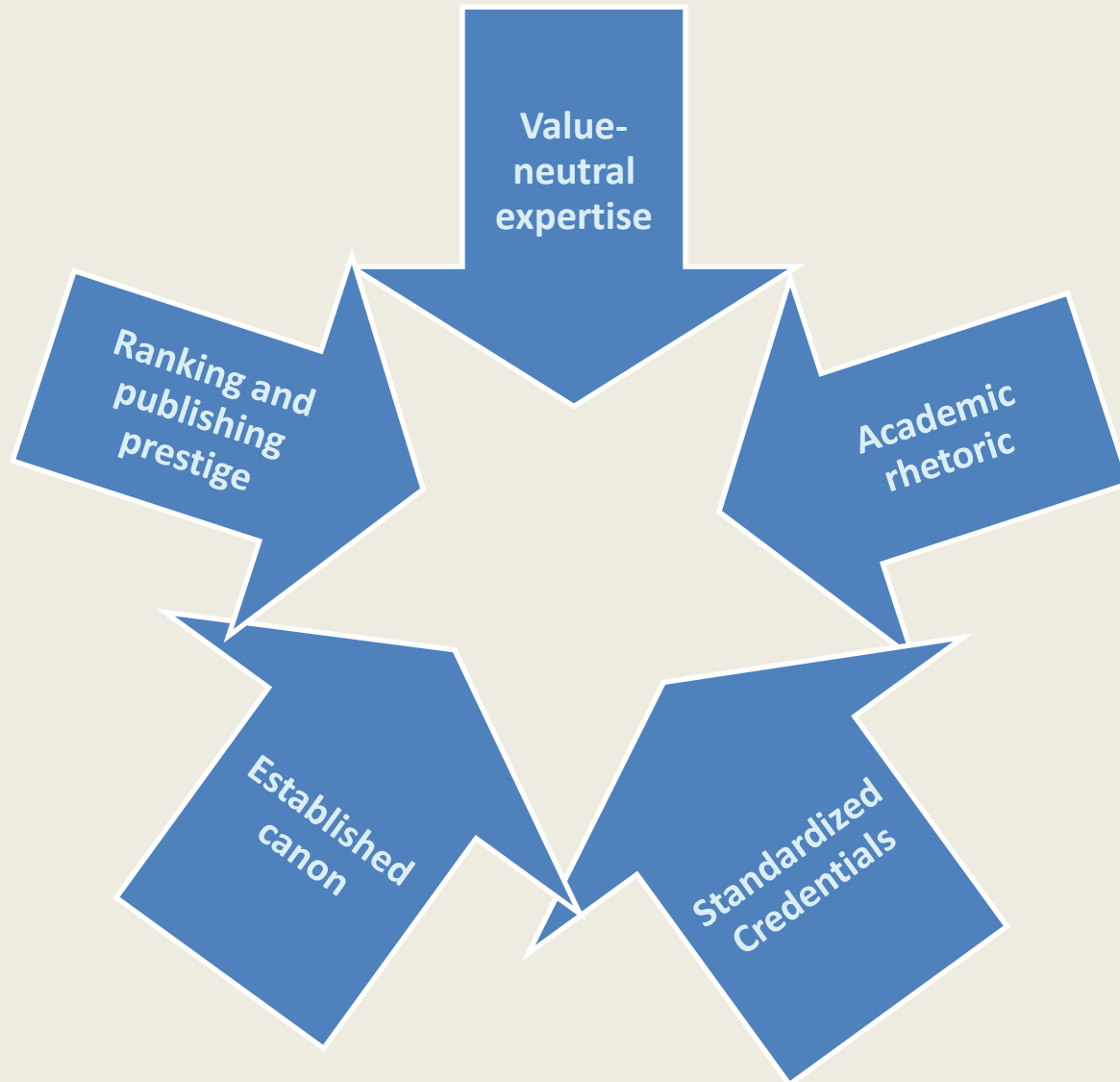
Securing and expanding this work site meant that the sociological community became permeated by academic expectations and power arrangements.



**Sociology
as
objectivity**

The university, whether private or public, depended on the economic support of powerful corporations and governmental groups aligned with capitalism.

The Resulting Sociology



Key Concluding Points by Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley

...the operative canon
in modern sociology is
a social construction,
not a natural
development.

This canon '...is
conceivable only
because of the earlier
marginalization of the
women founders.'

