

**A SERIES ON WOMEN IN THE HISTORY OF IDEAS**

# "ARGUING FOR THE SUPERIORITY OF WOMEN IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY"

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Early feminist or pro-woman works often combine the claim that the rational souls of men and women are the same with an argument for the superiority of women. This paper considers two such works, Lucrezia Marinella's *The Nobility and Excellence of Women and the Defects and Vices of Men* (Venice, 1601) and Marguerite Buffet's *In Praise of Illustrious Learned Women, both Ancient and Modern* (Paris, 1668), in order to show the continuities and distinctive features of feminist arguments for superiority, to emphasize the differences in the conceptions of reason and physiology that distinguish them, and to demonstrate that claims of superiority persisted even as those defending women's worth began to adopt egalitarian positions.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020  
3228 RICHCRAFT HALL  
1:00 P.M.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

