This book and I have shared a long, complex journey from inception to completion. Feminisms and feminists, and imperialisms and anti-imperialisms, stayed consistently centered as the project evolved and grew through research on three continents over more than a dozen years. In this frequently fascinating, often exciting, and sometimes frustrating process, what became *Feminism’s Empire* and I together benefited from the generous support of multiple institutions, colleagues, friends, and family.

I had the privilege of spending an academic year researching and writing in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. At the IAS, the member-organized Law and Colonialism seminar provided superb feedback, support, and fun. I sincerely thank members Emmanuelle Saada, Meredith Terretta, Daniela Caglioti, Rozaliya Garipova, Bryna Goodman, and Judith Surkis. My year-long Global Studies Research Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee’s Center for International Education allowed me time and the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of scholars. Much appreciation goes to former Director Patrice Petro, and to my “fellow Fellows,” Rachel Ida Buff, Ivan Ascher, Bernard Perley, and Scott Graham. Additional grants and awards from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee’s Department of History, Graduate School, Office of Research, and Center for International Education supported this project. At the University of South Florida, grants from the Humanities Institute, the College of Arts and Science, the Department of Women’s Studies, and the Office of Research also partially funded my early research.

I am fortunate in having a magnificent set of mentors, superb scholars and kind friends, on whom I have long relied, and continue to do so. My profound gratitude to Elinor Accampo, Karen Offen, Laura Levine Frader, Patricia Lorcin, Marilyn Boxer, and the late, much missed Rachel Fuchs. I am also indebted to Julia Clancy-Smith, John Merriman, Joan Scott, and Odile Krakovitch for their insights and their support; to Steven Hause for sharing his enormous expertise; and to Lisa Silverman for our exciting and fruitful discussions. Naomi
Andrews, Jennifer Boittin, and Courtney Booker each enthusiastically read and provided keen, valuable critiques of substantial portions of this book. Jennifer Sessions, Camille Robcis, Jennifer Popiel, Mona Siegel, Lisa Leff, Joel Berkowitz, Robert Ingalls, and China Miéville have all given me discerning, constructive comments and ideas that bettered my study. One of the lovely aspects of academia is that professional interactions and connections have provided contexts through which my marvelous colleagues have become my friends. For this, and for this spectacular group of people, I am intensely thankful.

Thoughtful feedback and critique from generous colleagues in workshops and seminars have deeply enriched this study. I am grateful to the participants in the Beyond France seminar at Columbia University (especially Emmanuelle Saada, once again). My thanks also to the members of the Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Modern France and the Francophone World at the University of Chicago (particularly Bastien Craipain); to Roxanne Panchasi, at Simon Fraser University, for the seminar she organized around my work; to Jennifer Sessions (again!) and the Iowa European Studies Group at the University of Iowa; to Nina Kushner and the valuable colloquium she brought together at Clark University; to Katharina Karcher and the Militant Feminisms in Art and Politics interdisciplinary symposium at the University of Warwick, England; and to Regina Kreide and the Reemerging Racism: Genealogy, Mediations, and Contestations workshop at Justus Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. At the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa, my thanks to Jonathan Goldberg-Hiller and the Indigenous Politics Network; to Alexander Mawyer and the Center for Pacific Island Studies; to the Oceana Ensemble and the East-West Center; and to Kathy Ferguson and the Women’s Studies Colloquium. Near the beginning of the project, the extraordinary Valérie Morignat’s invitation to speak at the *Louise Michel, figure de la transversalité* conference at the Sorbonne not only influenced my scholarship but also launched our deep friendship.

I presented elements of this book at a broad range of conferences across disciplines, years, and continents. I appreciate the thoughtful and careful comments of panel discussants, including Cheryl Koos, Gary Wilder, Joshua Cole, Bettina Brandt, Sina Kramer, Nina Kushner, Kathi Weeks, Richard Sonn, David Troyansky, Ulla Wikander, Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal, Judith Zinsser, and here again Laura Levine Frader and Elinor Accampo.

Valérie Morignat later extended a remarkable welcome to her home in Nouméa, New Caledonia. I am exceedingly grateful for the doors she opened and the introductions she made, for allowing me to see Nouvelle-Calédonie through her eyes and those of her family. Valérie’s generosity, along with her late father André Morignat’s hospitality, and her cousin Frédéric Medevielle’s conviviality and kindness, assured that my research trip exceeded my highest expectations.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The librarians at the Centre Culturel Tjibaou and the archivists and librarians at the Archives de la Nouvelle-Calédonie—Ingrid Utchaou, Roselyne Kromopawiro, Christophe Dervieux, and Jean Moé Léonidas—directed me through their collections expertly and enthusiastically. I truly appreciate their help.

I owe a debt of gratitude to librarians and archivists at Paris’s Bibliothèque nationale de France, Archives nationale, Archives de la préfecture de police, as well as at the Archives nationale d’outre mer in Aix-en-Provence. Special thanks for their knowledgeable and patient guidance to the archivists and librarians at the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand, particularly Annie Metz, and at the Bibliothèque Historique de la ville de Paris, especially Luc Passion and Geneviève Morlet. Starting with my early research, Mieke Ijzermans, former Information Director at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam, facilitated and furthered my scholarly investigations, while simultaneously sharing with me her delightful friendship and hospitality. I also acknowledge the other staff at the IISH, who have been consistently helpful over many years.

At Cornell University Press, Emily Andrew patiently and persistently championed this book, for which I am grateful. Many thanks to Bethany Wasik for ably and generously stepping in on Emily’s departure, and to Allegra Martschenko for the care and attention she has given me and my project. I also want to recognize the three readers for their thoughtful and useful critiques. An earlier form of chapter 3 appeared as “La citoyenne in the World: Hubertine Auclert and Feminist Imperialism,” French Historical Studies 32, no. 1 (Winter 2009): 63–84 (Copyright 2009, Duke University Press. All rights reserved. Republished by permission of the publisher). Portions of chapter 4 originally appeared as “Language of Imperialism, Language of Liberation: Louise Michel and the Kanak-French Colonial Encounter,” Feminist Studies vol. 45, no. 2 (2019), 377–408, in a special issue on Indigenous Feminisms in Settler Contexts. I appreciate the editors and anonymous readers at both journals.

Sarah Miles deserves special recognition for her excellent research assistance and superbly conscientious and thorough bibliography work. To my niece, Tess Eichner Considine, another mille mercis and much love for her careful contributions. I also want to acknowledge the undergraduate and graduate students in my courses on gender, sexuality, and imperialism at both the University of South Florida and later the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, for their creative ideas and enthusiasm that helped inspire my project. Thanks also to colleagues who attended and participated in my Brown Bag presentations in both Departments of History and Women’s and Gender Studies at UWM.

My sister, Susan Eichner, has read and edited a good deal of this book, as she has generously done for the previous two. I continue to rely on her as my
unfailing long-term “grammar hotline” and deeply value her outstanding editing skills and English language prowess. In these and many other ways, she is a marvelous sister and pal. My parents, Corrine Bochan Eichner and Norman Eichner, provided me near endless, enthusiastic, and loving support. My mother’s commitment to feminism and love of history, my father’s support of her choices, and both parents’ social justice activism inspired and shaped my intellectual, personal, professional, and political trajectories. Both of my parents passed away during the writing of this book, leaving beautiful legacies and enormous absences.

Kennan Ferguson’s contribution to this project is incalculable. Our ongoing discussions and debates, his incisive analyses and insights, and his near-boundless patience in reading, editing, and rereading my work, have fundamentally influenced the form and content of this book. I dedicate Feminism’s Empire to Kennan in resounding appreciation for our magnificent partnership and the myriad ways he has enriched both this study and my life.
FEMINISM’S EMPIRE