



# **Immigrant Women in Athens: Gender, Ethnicity, and Citizenship in the Classical City (Routledge Studies in Ancient History)**

*Rebecca Futo Kennedy*

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Many of the women whose names are known to history from Classical Athens were *metics* or immigrants, linked in the literature with assumptions of being 'sexually exploitable.' Despite recent scholarship on women in Athens beyond notions of the 'citizen wife' and the 'common prostitute,' the scholarship on women, both citizen and foreign, is focused almost exclusively on women in the reproductive and sexual economy of the city. This book examines the position of *metic* women in Classical Athens, to understand the social and economic role of *metic* women in the city, beyond the sexual labor market.

This book contributes to two important aspects of the history of life in 5<sup>th</sup> century Athens: it explores our knowledge of *metics*, a little-researched group, and contributes to the study of women in antiquity, which has traditionally divided women socially between citizen-wives and everyone else. This tradition has wrongly situated *metic* women, because they could not legally be wives, as some variety of whores. Author Rebecca Kennedy critiques the traditional approach to the study of women through an examination of primary literature on non-citizen women in the Classical period. She then constructs new approaches to the study of *metic* women in Classical Athens that fit the evidence and open up further paths for exploration. This leading-edge volume advances the study of women beyond their sexual status and breaks down the ideological constraints that both Victorians and feminist scholars reacting to them have historically relied upon throughout the study of women in antiquity.

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