Gender and Private Security in Global Politics
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Gender and Private Security in Global Politics

Edited by Maya Eichler
To Ann and Cynthia, for paving the way
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I dedicate this book to two leading figures of feminist international relations—J. Ann Tickner and Cynthia Enloe—who paved the way for so many of us. Without their scholarship and example, I doubt that asking feminist questions about private security in global politics would have been possible in the first place. They have taught us to speak truth to power, question what is taken for granted, and listen carefully to those on the margins of international relations. Without asking feminist questions, they have insisted, we know less and are collectively worse off. This book is motivated by the kind of feminist questioning and scholarship that Ann and Cynthia have pioneered.

Over the past few years, a small but dedicated group of scholars has worked to develop feminist and feminist-informed analyses of security privatization and private military and security companies (PMSCs). In assembling this volume it was my goal to bring these scholars together and both showcase and advance this emerging research. The chapters make it evident that there are multiple ways of studying private security through gendered lenses. In this volume we have not exhausted feminist analyses of private security but instead aimed to inspire others to ask feminist questions and further develop the emerging field of “critical gender studies in private security.” It has been my utmost privilege to work with the contributors to this volume. I am grateful to each one of them for agreeing to be part of this project. Without their commitment the volume would not have materialized. I thank Anna Leander for her enthusiasm for this project and for supplying such an insightful afterword.

Several of the contributors to this volume participated in ISA panels on gender and private security. In 2012 I organized the panel “Gender and the Privatization of Military Security,” and in 2013 Amanda Chisholm