

Why a Multi-Author Collection of Essays was more Compelling than Monographs – The Silver Anniversary of *Uneasy Careers & Intimate Lives, Women in Science, 1789-1979* (Rutgers University Press) 2012, 1987.

Abstract for a HSS panel, (12-13.15pm) San Diego, November 16-19, 2012

Organizer: Dr. Pnina G. Abir-Am (WSRC, Brandeis University)

Abstract (Word count = 238 < 250)

One of the finest moments of the History of Science Society in the late 1980s pertained to its prompt recognition of *Uneasy Careers and Intimate Lives - Women in Science, 1789-1979*. (1987; prize in 1988) By encompassing a greater historical, disciplinary, national, and familial range than single author books on this subject that preceded it; (e.g. Merchant 1980; Rossiter 1982; Hibner Koblitz 1983; Fox Keller 1983) as well as by including a dozen women authors with a professional reputation in a wide variety of historical fields, this first collective effort made a synergetic statement about the feasibility, both conceptual and social, of a new field – the history of women and gender in science. By including both European and American subject matter, public careers and private lives, as well as both junior and senior woman authors, the collection further signaled that the history of women and gender in science was there to stay.

Authors **Marilyn Ogilvie, Rusty Shteir, Joy Harvey, Ann Hibner Koblitz, Nancy G. Slack, and Sally Gregory Kohlstedt** will recall the scholarship that led them to take part in this collection as well as the road they have taken since as leading contributors to other key initiatives. Co-editor and HSS award winner for her chapter in this collection, **Pnina G. Abir-Am**, will reflect on the life course of this collection, (still in print) its impact on history of science, and lessons to be learned from missed opportunities.