Beyond the Public Sphere
Film and the Feminist Imaginary

María Pía Lara
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“Fighting domination and promoting emancipation is a matter not only of norms and arguments but also of powerful images, creative metaphors, and the bold imagination of different lives and other spaces. Reconstructing and recovering an important but often neglected thematic strand in critical social theory and feminist philosophy, María Pía Lara powerfully advances and exemplifies a view of political and social struggles that highlights the decisive role of images and the imagination.”

—MARTIN SAAR, author of Die Immanenz der Macht. Politische Theorie nach Spinoza (The Immanence of Power: Political Theory after Spinoza)

“My foregrounding issues of gender subordination and sexual violence, Lara’s book shows brilliantly how critical theory of the Frankfurt School tradition can speak to the political paradoxes and challenges of the #MeToo era.”

—AMY ALLEN, author of The End of Progress: Decolonizing the Normative Foundations of Critical Theory

**In Beyond the Public Sphere: Film and the Feminist Imaginary, the renowned philosopher and critical theorist María Pía Lara challenges the notion that the bourgeois public sphere is the most important informal institution between social and political actors and the state.**

Drawing on a wide range of films—including The Milk of Sorrow, Ixcanul, Wadja, The Stone of Patience, Marnie, A Streetcar Named Desire, and Talk to Her—Lara dissects cinematic images that reflect patriarchal capitalism’s oppression of women. She builds on this analysis, developing a concept of the feminist social imaginary as a broader and more complex space that provides a way of thinking through the possibilities for emancipatory social transformation.

**MARÍA PÍA LARA** is a professor of moral and political philosophy at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City. She is the author of a number of books, including Moral Textures: Feminist Narratives in the Public Sphere, Narrating Evil: A Postmetaphysical Theory of Reflective Judgment, and The Disclosure of Politics: Struggles Over the Semantics of Secularization.