

# CHRONICLE OF SCIENTIFIC LIFE

## The research of a scholar from Cherepovets printed by the British publisher ‘Routledge’


The prestigious British publisher ‘Routledge’ specializing in publication of academic literature in the Humanities and social sciences issued the monograph ‘Early Professional Women in Northern Europe, c. 1650–1850’ in London and New York.

The monograph is devoted to the study of women’s history in the northern Europe in the early modern period, when they appeared on the arena of economic and social life, gradually occupying even more niches in terms of their jobs. “To improve their positions or to find better business opportunities, the women discussed in this book, developed their professional skills, invested in developing their qualifications and professional skills, took economic or other kinds of risks, or moved to other countries. Socially, they range from elite women and low middle-class origin.

In terms of theory, the book brings fresh insights into issues that have been long discussed in the field of women’s history and are also debated today. However, despite its focus on women, the book is conceptually not so much focused on gender as it is on profession, business, career, qualifications, skills, and work. By applying such concepts to analysing women’s endeavours, the book aims at challenging the conventional ideas about them”, with regards to lack of ambitions and their second-grade position in the society throughout a significant period in the European history.

Three Finnish researchers initiated this publication and later became its editors: Johanna Ilmakunnas (University of Turku), Marjatta Rahikainen (University of Helsinki) and Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen (University of Turku).

The immediate work to prepare the book took three years. An international team was created that represented scientists from Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden. Russia was represented in the project by only two participants:



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**Early Professional Women in Northern Europe, c. 1650–1850**

Edited by **Johanna Ilmakunnas, Marjatta Rahikainen & Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen**

Series: *Routledge Research in Early Modern History*

This book focuses on early examples of women who may be said to have anticipated, in one way or another, modern professional and/or career-oriented women. The contributors to the book discuss women who may at least in some respect be seen as professionally ambitious, unlike the great majority of working women in the past. In order to improve their positions or to find better business opportunities, the women discussed in this book invested in developing their qualifications and professional skills, took economic or other kinds of risks, or moved to other countries. Socially, they range from elite women to women of middle-class and lower middle-class origin.

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Galina Nickolayevna Ulyanova, Doctor of Historical Sciences, leading research worker from the Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN Moscow) and Olga Yuryevna Solodyankina, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor at the Department of History and Philosophy at Cherepovets State University. Not all the members of the creative team withstood the tough working schedule with regards to the research, and the final composition of the authors' team turned out to be smaller than announced.

The mechanism of work with the book, after the consent in principle for its publication was received from the publishing group Taylor & Francis (where the publisher 'Routledge' belongs), was as follows: first, it was necessary to write a short project with the proposed text, provide a summary and a list of publications, based on which the publisher took the decision on inclusion of parts (and their authors) into the proposed book. After that, each researcher was writing their chapter (in English) with the total volume of 9 000 words. Then the texts were compiled, sent to all members of the authors' team to familiarize themselves with these texts, and then a short workshop was held in Helsinki, where the authors met in person, presented their texts to colleagues, answered the questions, participated in the discussion of important and fundamental parts of the book. Considering the received comments, new versions of the chapters were rewritten. These were carefully edited by all three editors, each paying attention to different aspects of the text. After working with the comments and considering the editors' suggestions, new versions of the chapters were submitted again, after they had been seen by the editors responsible for the separate 'blocs' or sections of the proposed monograph. At this stage, new comments arrived, which were not that principal, and the texts were given another brush. Then the authors started working with the appendices, tables and illustrations. After this, the editors compiled all the texts (the final polishing of the English language was a personal responsibility of each author), made up their book into pages in accordance with the requirements of the publisher and passed it on to the professionals from 'Routledge' for further work, who added their comments too (regarding the language structure, statistical data, appearance of quotations etc.). The authors were to respond to all those comments, specifying the data and providing the requested information. After thorough proofreading of the corrected text by the publisher's editor, the proof corrections of the book were ready, and the authors carefully looked through the words and even the letters in their texts. Finally, after preparing the indexes, the work was finished, and in July 2017 the publisher announced the issue of the book. However, since the arrangement in the Library of Congress in the USA takes a certain time, 2018 will appear in the publisher's imprint.

Separate chapters are devoted to women-midwives (Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen), waiting ladies (Britta Kägler, Johanna Ilmakunnas), painters (Anna-Lena Lindberg), actresses (Marie Steinrud), tailors and dressmakers (Deborah Simonton), industrial-

ists (Galina Ulyanova), teachers (Åsa Karlsson Sjögren, Marjatta Rahikainen), governesses (Olga Solodyankina).

The total volume of the book is 280 pages. It can be purchased through the publisher's web-site of [www.routledge.com/9781472471345](http://www.routledge.com/9781472471345). A 20 % discount can be made if code FLR40 is applied.