



PROJECT MUSE®

Privately Empowered

Edwin, Shirin

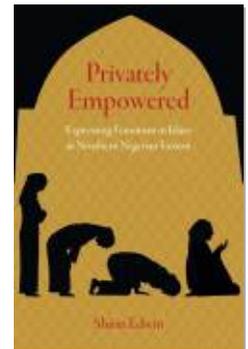
Published by Northwestern University Press

Edwin, Shirin.

Privately Empowered: Expressing Feminism in Islam in Northern Nigerian Fiction.

1 ed. Northwestern University Press, 2016.

Project MUSE.muse.jhu.edu/book/47802.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/47802>

Access provided at 6 Apr 2020 13:30 GMT with no institutional affiliation



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book would not have started without my husband Ayub's loving suggestion that I should write it. After trying to find a publisher for a dissertation in French in the United States, and finding none, I rather belatedly realized that our thoughts are imprisoned by language—and language itself by place. So I am forced to write in English. But Ayub's belief in me has exploded every line that can possibly be drawn by language, religion, or place. The odds that two people from two large minorities in an even larger country defy by living and laughing together on a daily basis are beyond the drama that a Bollywood film can ever hope to capture, and beyond my own linguistic abilities to describe, even in Hindi. On the other hand, I am able to express my deepest gratitude, if insufficiently, for the material ideas in this book that developed with a generous Enhancement Grant for Professional Development (EGPD) at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in 2007. I am indeed fortunate to benefit from SHSU's continued support for my research endeavors. Over the years, I was fortunate to present some ideas in this book at the African Literature Association Conferences, the Modern Language Association Conventions, and other venues to capitalize on so many conversations with colleagues across the disciplines—Suman Venkatesh, Gaurav Desai, Anouar Majid, Lynn Ramey, Robert Barsky, and Nouri Gana, in particular, offered much-needed encouragement of my scholarly goals in the early stages of my career. Though not directly connected with this book, Carli Coetzee's incisive reading skills sharpened my critical thoughts on literature and literary criticism and reminded me to think more and ask more. I am grateful to her for her intellectual engagement and encouragement of my work on African literatures. Gabeba Baderoon and Shaden Tageldin offered me the opportunity to talk about the work in this book, exposing me to invaluable feedback and a community of academics that enriches my work in immeasurable ways. I am lucky to have colleagues at SHSU who have helped me along the way and friends whose work habits and intellectual drive inspire me to continue in my scholarly pursuits. Grateful thanks are due to April Shemak, Shuangyue Zhang, Hiranya Nath, Manuel Triano-Lopez, Sharon Murphy-Manley, Alejandro Latinez, and, more recently, Peter Gachanja. The Interlibrary Loan staff at the Newton Gresham Library at SHSU—Erin Cassidy, Ann Jerabek, Bette

Craig, Sammie Phelps—have shown me more patience than I deserve as I feverishly requested books and materials for this project. From the start, Gianna Mosser at Northwestern University Press held my hand throughout the publication process with her enthusiasm and patience, generously offering to read, edit, and comment on the manuscript. I am deeply grateful to the two anonymous reviewers at the press and to Nathan MacBrien and his wonderful team for treating my work with such great care, patience, and efficiency. Warm thanks are also due to Serene Yang for her meticulous copy editing and for polishing and straightening many of my sentences and phrases. Deepest thanks to Steven Moore for his skillful indexing of the book. My friends Norma, Pat, Roxanne, Jill, Tracy, Maritza, and Fatma deserve special mention for tolerating my antisocial ways as I was writing this book. My parents, Lt. Col. (retired) R. B. K. Edwin and Anita Edwin, and my brother, Lt. Col. Sunil Edwin, have had more faith in me since I can remember and have brought me this far—I can't express here or in words the gratitude I feel for their love and belief in my abilities, for motivating me from even before I understood the purpose of that encouragement. As they wondered why I was typing so much over these past few months, Sana, Shuaib, and Samreen have come to think of me as an “author” and have inquired if I will visit their elementary school to read the stories I'm writing, and when they may borrow them from the local library. But most of all, they have enlivened my writing experience by vastly improving my knowledge of Pokémon over the months. I dedicate this book to my little Jolteon, Bouffalant, and Leafeon. An early version of a small segment of my discussion on African feminism appeared in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, and my discussion of Hauwa Ali's *Destiny* is a revised version of a portion of an article that appeared in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. I am thankful to the University of Nebraska Press and Taylor and Francis for allowing me to use part of these publications here in modified forms.