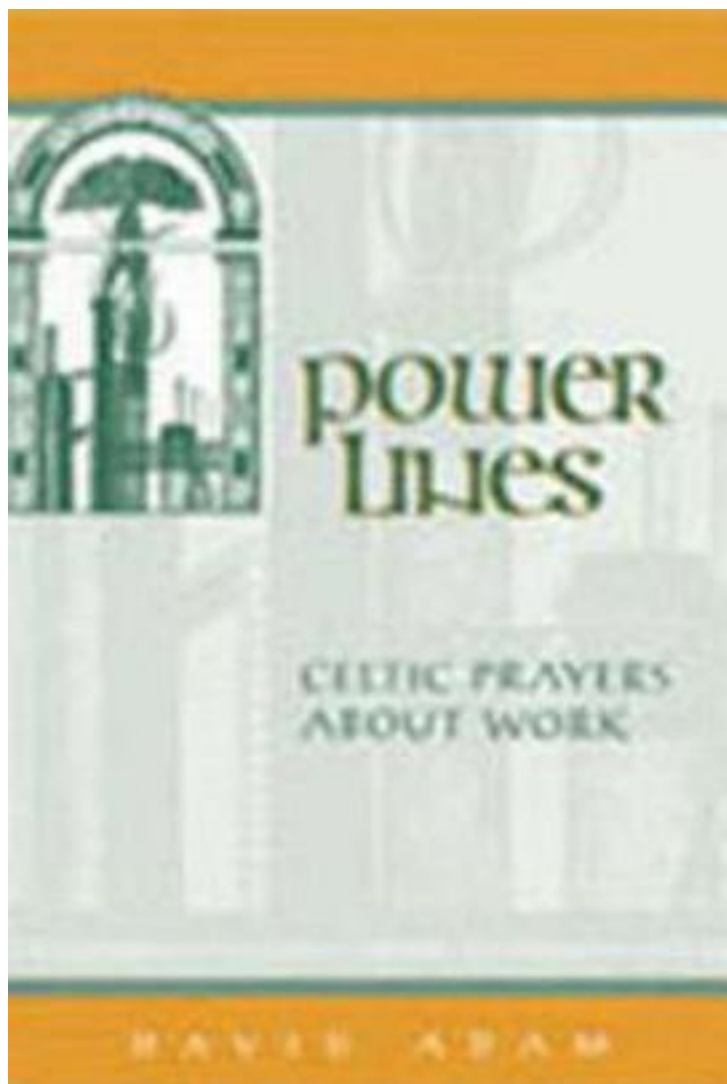


Power Lines



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Like the complex systems of manmade power lines that transmit electricity and connect people and places, feminist alliances are elaborate networks that have the potential to provide access to institutional power and to transform those power relations. In "Power Lines", Aimee Carrillo Rowe explores the formation and transformative possibilities of trans-racial feminist alliances. She draws on her conversations with twenty-eight self-defined academic feminists, ten women of colour and eighteen white women. The women candidly share stories of their academic careers, alliances, feminist struggles, and identifications. Based on those conversations and her own experiences as an Anglo-Chicana queer feminist researcher, Carrillo Rowe investigates when and under what conditions trans-racial feminist alliances in academia work, why they fail, and how close attention to their formation provides the theoretical and political ground for a collective vision of subjectivity. Combining theory, criticism, and narrative nonfiction, Carrillo Rowe develops a politics of relation that encourages the formation of feminist alliances across racial and other boundaries within academia. Such a politics of relation is founded on her belief that our subjectivities emerge in community; our affective investments inform and even create our political investments. Thus experience, consciousness, and agency must be understood as coalitional rather than individual endeavours. Carrillo Rowe's conversations with academic feminists reveal that white women who build their primary alliances with other whites tend to have limited notions of feminism, while white women and women of colour who build trans-racial alliances cultivate more nuanced, intersectional, and politically transformative feminisms. For Carrillo Rowe, the institutionalization of feminism is not so much an achievement as an ongoing relational process. In "Power Lines", she offers a set of critical, practical, and theoretical tools for building and maintaining trans-racial feminist alliances.

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