



**1999 Linda Gordon**

**Women in Defense of the Race: the Great Arizona Abduction of 1904**

Linda Gordon has specialized in examining the historical roots of contemporary social policy debates, particularly as they concern gender and family issues. Her first book was a documentary history of working women in the US (*America's Working Women*, orig. 1976, revised ed. 1995). She then turned her attention to the history of birth control; her book on that topic, *Woman's Body, Woman's Right: The History of Birth Control in America*, was a runner-up for the National Book Award in 1976 and was re-issued in an up-to-date revision in 1990. Her 1988 book, *Heroes of Their Own Lives: The History and Politics of Family Violence*, winner of the Joan Kelly prize of the American Historical Association, examined the history of child abuse, child sexual abuse and wife-beating. As a domestic violence expert, she serves on the Departments of Justice/Health and Human Services Advisory Council on Violence Against Women. More recently she turned her attention to the history of welfare. Her *Pitied But Not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare* (1994), winner of the Berkshire Prize and Gustavus Myers Human Rights Award, explains how we ended up with a welfare program detested by recipients and non-recipients alike. Her 1999 book, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction* (Harvard University Press) uses a narrative about a 1904 white vigilante action against the Mexican American foster parents of white children to illustrate how family values and racism can interact. It was the winner of the Bancroft prize for best book in American history. Her most recent book, *Dear Sisters*, edited with Ros Baxandall (Basic Books, 2000), offers an historical introduction to the women's movement of the 1970s through essays and documents.

For further biographical information, please see <http://history.fas.nyu.edu/object/lindagordon> .