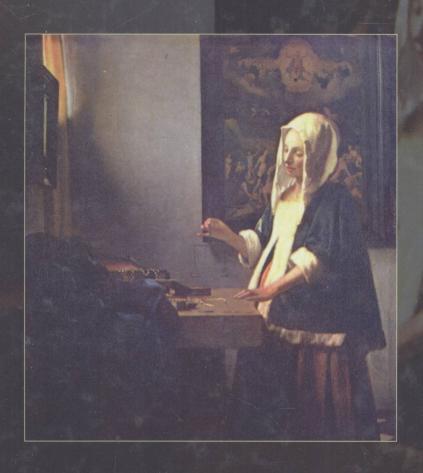
# Gender Equality

Dimensions of Women's Equal Citizenship



Edited by
Linda C. McClain and Joanna L. Grossman

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# Gender Equality

# **DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN'S EQUAL CITIZENSHIP**

Edited by

Linda C. McClain

**Boston University School of Law** 

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Hofstra University School of Law







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#### **GENDER EQUALITY**

#### Dimensions of Women's Equal Citizenship

Citizenship is the common language for expressing aspirations to democratic and egalitarian ideals of inclusion, participation, and civic membership. However, there continues to be a significant gap between formal commitments to gender equality and equal citizenship – in the laws and constitutions of many countries as well as in international human rights documents – and the reality of women's lives.

This volume presents a collection of original works that examine this persisting inequality through the lens of citizenship. Distinguished scholars in law, political science, and women's studies investigate the many dimensions of women's equal citizenship, including constitutional citizenship, democratic citizenship, social citizenship, sexual and reproductive citizenship, and global citizenship. *Gender Equality* takes stock of the progress toward – and remaining impediments to – securing equal citizenship for women, develops strategies for pursuing that goal, and identifies new questions that will shape further inquiries.

Linda C. McClain is professor of law and Paul M. Siskind Research Scholar at Boston University School of Law. She is the author of *The Place of Families: Fostering Capacity, Equality, and Responsibility,* which was praised as "the most careful and comprehensive defense to date of the progressive liberal feminist position on the civic role of families." She is currently at work on a book on contemporary challenges over regulating civil society titled *Free and Equal Association.* McClain is a former faculty Fellow of the Harvard University Center for Ethics and the Professions.

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viii Contributors

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Contributors ix

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x Contributors

Review and Hypatia. She is coeditor of Revisioning the Political: Feminist Reconstructions of Traditional Concepts in Western Political Theory (Westview Press, 1996); Women and Welfare: Theory and Practice in the United States and Europe (Rutgers University Press, 2001); and Feminist Interpretations of John Locke (Penn State Press, 2007). She has held fellowships from the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Bunting Institute, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

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Contributors

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xii Contributors

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We thank our friends and families for their support of this project. Thanks to Jim Fleming and to Grant Hayden for constructive engagement with this book's aims and for encouragement and support during our work on it. We hope that our daughters (Sarah and Katherine McClain Fleming) and sons (Luke Grossman, Benjamin Hayden, and Milo Grossman) will see, in their lifetimes, a more complete realization of the ideals of equal citizenship.

The chapter by Kathryn Abrams incorporates, in revised form, an earlier essay, "Women and Antiwar Protest: Rearticulating Gender and Citizenship," which appeared in 87 Boston University Law Review 849 (2007). Permission from the Boston University Law Review to use this material is gratefully acknowledged.

#### **GENDER EQUALITY**

## **Contents**

Con	tributors	page vi
Ack	nowledgments	X
	oduction nna L. Grossman and Linda C. McClain	1
PAR	RT I: CONSTITUTIONAL CITIZENSHIP AND GENDER	
1	Gender at the Margins of Contemporary Constitutional Citizenship Rogers M. Smith	23
2	Becoming a Citizen: Marriage, Immigration, and Assimilation Kerry Abrams	39
3	Women's Civic Inclusion and the Bill of Rights Gretchen Ritter	60
4	Must Feminists Identify as Secular Citizens? Lessons From Ontario  Beverley Baines	83
5	Feminist Fundamentalism and Constitutional Citizenship  Mary Anne Case	107
PART II: POLITICAL CITIZENSHIP AND GENDER		
6	Women and Antiwar Protest: Rearticulating Gender and Citizenship Kathryn Abrams	131
7	Stem Cells, Disability, and Abortion: A Feminist Approach to Equal Citizenship  Nancy J. Hirschmann	154
8	Representation, Discrimination, and Democracy: A Legal Assessment of Gender Quotas in Politics Anne Peters and Stefan Suter	174
		7

9	Citizenship and Women's Election to Political Office: The Power of Gendered Public Policies  Eileen McDonagh	201
PAF	RT III: SOCIAL CITIZENSHIP AND GENDER	
10	Pregnancy and Social Citizenship Joanna L. Grossman	233
11	Equality: Still Illusive After All These Years  Martha Albertson Fineman	251
12	Razing the Citizen: Economic Inequality, Gender, and Marriage Tax Reform Martha T. McCluskey	267
PAR	T IV: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE CITIZENSHIP	
13	Sexual Citizens: Freedom, Vibrators, and Belonging Brenda Cossman	289
14	Feminism, Queer Theory, and Sexual Citizenship  Maxine Eichner	307
15	Infertility, Social Justice, and Equal Citizenship  Mary Lyndon Shanley	327
16	Reproductive Rights and the Reproduction of Gender Barbara Stark	345
PAR	T V: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND GENDER	
17	Women's Unequal Citizenship at the Border: Lessons From Three Nonfiction Films About the Women of Juárez Regina Austin	359
18	Domestic Violence, Citizenship, and Equality  Elizabeth M. Schneider	378
19	On the Path to Equal Citizenship and Gender Equality: Political, Judicial, and Legal Empowerment of Muslim Women Anisseh Van Engeland-Nourai	390
20	Gender and Human Rights: Between Morals and Politics Deborah M. Weissman	409
Sugg	Suggested Readings	
Inde	ndex	

#### Introduction

#### Joanna L. Grossman and Linda C. McClain

This book addresses a basic problem: a commitment to gender equality and to the equal citizenship of women and men features in the constitutional, statutory, and common law of many countries, as well as in international law and human rights instruments. Yet there remains a palpable and, in some cases, stark gap between formal commitments to the equal rights and responsibilities of men and women and against discrimination and subordination based on sex and the gendered realities of women's lives. Few would deny that women around the globe – and the societies in which they live – have made enormous progress toward the goals of gender equality and equal citizenship, but neither would most claim that those goals have been fully realized in life as well as in law. There continues to be ambivalence about and resistance to equality as well as legal, political, and social obstacles to attaining it.

This book takes stock of the progress toward and remaining impediments to the goals of securing gender equality and the equal citizenship of women and men. It develops strategies for securing such goals and identifies new questions, theories, and perspectives to help shape further inquiries about both gender equality and equal citizenship. It brings together an interdisciplinary group of distinguished scholars in law, political science, and women's studies to investigate several dimensions of women's equal citizenship.

Why use the language of equal citizenship to guide this inquiry about gender equality and the persistence of inequality? Why not simply talk about gender justice? Quite simply, citizenship remains the common language for expressing "the highest fulfillment of democratic and egalitarian aspiration." Even more so, the term *equal citizenship* conveys a society's goals of equal status for all members of society and its ideals of inclusion, membership, and belonging.<sup>2</sup> In his classic work on the evolution of modern citizenship, sociologist T. H. Marshall referred to "an image of an ideal citizenship against which achievements can be measured and towards which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Linda Bosniak, The Citizen and the Alien: Dilemmas of Contemporary Membership (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), at 1.

On the importance of "belonging," see Kenneth L. Karst, Belonging to America: Equal Citizenship and the Constitution (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998).