The concept of identity has taken an increasingly prominent place in the social sciences and humanities. Scholars using social identities as the building blocks of social, political, and economic life have attempted to account for a number of discrete outcomes by treating identities as causal factors. The dominant implication of the literature on identity is that social identities are among the most important social facts of the world in which we live.

This book brings together leading scholars from a variety of disciplines to consider the conceptual and methodological challenges associated with treating identity as a variable, to offer a synthetic theoretical framework, and to demonstrate the possibilities offered by various methods of measurement. The book is thus a collection of empirically grounded theoretical discussions of a wide range of methodological techniques for the study of identities.


Yoshiko M. Herrera is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and author of *Imagined Economies: The Sources of Russian Regionalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and *Transforming Bureaucracy: Conditional Norms and the International Standardization of Statistics in Russia* (forthcoming).


Rose McDermott is Professor of Political Science at Brown University. She is the author of *Risk Taking in International Relations* (1998), *Political Psychology in International Relations* (2004), and *Presidential Leadership, Illness, and Decision Making* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).
Measuring Identity

A Guide for Social Scientists

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