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978-1-107-00191-6 - Women's Rights in Democratizing States: Just Debate and Gender Justice in the Public Sphere

Denise M. Walsh

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Women's Rights in Democratizing States

*Just Debate and Gender Justice
in the Public Sphere*

This study offers a new explanation for why advances in women's rights rarely occur in democratizing states. Drawing on deliberative theory, Denise M. Walsh argues that the leading institutions in the public sphere are highly gendered, meaning women's ability to shape the content of public debate and put pressure on the state to advance their rights is limited. She tests this claim by measuring the openness and inclusiveness of debate conditions in the public sphere during select time periods in Poland, Chile, and South Africa. Through a series of structured, focused comparisons, the book confirms the importance of just debate for advancing gender justice. The comparisons also reveal that counterpublics in the leading institutions in the public sphere are crucial for improving debate conditions. The book concludes with an analysis of counterpublics and suggests an active role for the state in the public sphere.

Denise M. Walsh is Assistant Professor of Politics and Studies in Women and Gender at the University of Virginia. From 2008 to 2009, she was a Fellow at the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College. Professor Walsh was the recipient of the Best Dissertation Prize for the Women in Politics Research section of the American Political Science Association in 2007 and was a co-winner of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* Best Article Prize in 2006. She served as a co-editor of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* special issue, Women and the Politics of Gender in Southern Africa, and has published articles and a book chapter on gender politics in South Africa. She received her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in 2006, where she received the Hannah Arendt Award in Politics.

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For Gerald

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Acknowledgments

This book began as an intellectual adventure and became a homecoming. If I found work and family to be maddeningly at odds, I have also discovered that the two can be mutually enriching. I am grateful to everyone I met in South Africa for their insights and energy, and for their inspiration. Despite the legacy of apartheid and the high price they paid in the struggle, the South Africans I met were focused on the future, realistic about the problems, yet determined to persevere. The completion of this project is in large measure due to their example.

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Abbreviations

GENERAL

CEDAW	Convention for Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GMMMP	Global Media Monitoring Project
EU	European Union
MP	Member of Parliament
NEC	National Executive Council
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PR	Proportional Representation
UN	United Nations

CHILE

CEBs	Ecclesiastic Base Communities
CMD	Coalition of Women for Democracy
CNS	National Union Coordinator
DF	Women's Department
MEMCH83	Movement for the Emancipation of the Chilean Woman
MF	Feminist Movement
MOMUPO	Movement of Shantytown Women
MPLV	Women for Life

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Abbreviations

POLAND

AWS	Solidarity Electoral Action
GW	<i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i>
OPZZ	All-Poland Trade Union Alliance
SLD	Democratic Left Alliance
WPK	Women's Parliamentary Group

SOUTH AFRICA

AEC	Anti-eviction Campaign
ANC	African National Congress
ANCWL	ANC Women's League
BEE	Black Economic Empowerment
CA	Constitutional Assembly
CASE	Community Agency for Social Enquiry
CBO	Community-based Organization
CBPWP	Community-based Public Works Programme
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
CODESA	Convention for a Democratic South Africa
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
EEA	Employment Equality Act
GAP	Gender Advocacy Programme
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GL	Gender Links
GNU	Government of National Unity
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
ID	Independent Democrats
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women
LRA	Labour Relations Act
M&G	<i>Mail & Guardian</i>
MPNP	Multi-party Negotiating Process
NALEDI	National Labour and Economic Institute
NOW	Natal Organization for Women
NP	National Party
NPWP	National Public Works Programme

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NWM	New Women's Movement
OSW	Office on the Status of Women
PAC	Pan-Africanist Congress
PPP	Public Participation Programme
PWG	Parliamentary Women's Group
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RWM	Rural Women's Movement
SABC	South African Broadcasting System
SANEF	South African National Editor's Forum
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
UDF	United Democratic Front
UWO	United Women's Organization
WEU	Women's Empowerment Unit
WNC	Women's National Coalition