In many countries, social differences, such as religion or race and ethnicity, threaten the stability of the social and legal order. This book addresses the role of constitutions and constitutionalism in dealing with the challenge of difference. The book brings together lawyers, political scientists, historians, religious studies scholars, and area studies experts to consider how constitutions address issues of difference across “Pan-Asia,” a wide swath of the world that runs from the Middle East, through Asia, and into Oceania. The book’s multidisciplinary and comparative approach makes it unique. The book is organized into five parts, each devoted to constitutional approaches to a particular type of difference – religion, ethnicity/race, urban/rural divisions, language, and gender and sexual orientation – in two or more countries in Pan-Asia. The introduction offers a framework for thinking comprehensively about the many ways constitutionalism interacts with difference.

Susan H. Williams is the Walter W. Foskett Professor of Law and the Director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She is the author of *Truth, Autonomy, and Speech: Feminist Theory and the First Amendment* (2004), which won the Outstanding Academic Title Award from *Choice* magazine, as well as many articles and book chapters. She is the editor of *Constituting Equality: Gender Equality and Comparative Constitutional Law* (2011). Her scholarship focuses on issues related to gender equality, constitutional design, and feminist theory.
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Social Difference and Constitutionalism in Pan-Asia

Edited by

Susan H. Williams

Indiana University, Maurer School of Law
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