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978-0-521-80852-1 - Gender and Rhetoric in Plato's Political Thought

Michael S. Kochin

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Gender and Rhetoric in Plato's Political Thought

Gender and Rhetoric in Plato's Political Thought explores the relation between Plato's *Republic* and *Laws* on the set of issues that the *Laws* itself marks out as fundamental to the comparison: the unity of the virtues, the role of women, and the place of the family. Plato aims to persuade men to abandon the views of the good life that Greek cities and their laws inculcate as the only life worth living for those who would be real men and not effeminate weaklings. What we can learn about Plato is the importance for him of understanding the nature of persuasion in order to come to terms with gender justice and the apparent plurality of human goods. What we learn from Plato is that to tackle the issues that arise in our new political community of men and women, we must comprehend the proper bases and limits of persuasion.

Michael S. Kochin is Lecturer and Alon Fellow in the Department of Political Science at Tel Aviv University and formerly Metcalf Fellow at Victoria College and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Science at the University of Toronto.

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