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0521831830 - Challenging Diversity: Rethinking Equality and the Value of Difference -

Davina Cooper

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Challenging Diversity

What challenges are presented by the claim that diversity should be celebrated? How should equality politics respond to controversial constituencies, such as smokers and recreational hunters, when they position themselves as disadvantaged? *Challenging Diversity* brings a new and original approach to key issues facing social, political and cultural theory. Critically engaging with feminist, radical democratic and liberal scholarship, the book addresses four major challenges confronting a radical equality politics, namely, what does equality mean for preferences and choices that appear harmful? are equality's subjects individuals, groups or something else? what power do dominant norms have to undermine equality-oriented reforms? and can radical practices endure when they collide with the mainstream? Taking examples from religion, gender, sexuality, state policy-making and intentional communities, *Challenging Diversity* maps new ways of understanding equality, explores the politics of its pursuit, and asks what kinds of diversity a radical version of equality engenders.

DAVINA COOPER is Professor of Law and Political Theory in the School of Law, University of Kent, and Director of the AHRB Research Centre in Law, Gender and Sexuality. Her previous publications include *Sexing the City: Lesbian and Gay Politics within the Activist State* (1994), *Power in Struggle: Feminism, Sexuality and the State* (1995), *Governing Out of Order: Space, Law and the Politics of Belonging* (1998).

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Didi

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
1 Introduction: mapping the terrain	1
2 Diversity politics: beyond a pluralism without limits	15
3 From blokes to smokes: theorising the difference	40
4 Towards equality of power	68
5 Normative encounters: the politics of same-sex spousal equality	91
6 Getting in the way: the social power of nuisance	118
7 Oppositional routines: the problem of embedding change	142
8 Safeguarding community pathways: ‘possibly the happiest school in the world’ and other porous places	165
9 Diversity through equality	191
<i>Bibliography</i>	208
<i>Index</i>	232

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