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978-1-107-06314-3 - Immigration and Membership Politics in Western Europe

Sara Wallace Goodman

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Immigration and Membership Politics in Western Europe

Why are traditional nation-states newly defining membership and belonging? In the twenty-first century, several Western European states have attached obligatory civic integration requirements as conditions for citizenship and residence, which include language proficiency, country knowledge, and value commitments for immigrants. This book examines this membership policy adoption and adaptation through both medium-N analysis and three paired comparisons to argue that while there is convergence in instruments, there is also significant divergence in policy purpose, design, and outcomes. To explain this variation, this book focuses on the continuing, dynamic interaction of institutional path dependency and party politics. Through paired comparisons of Austria and Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands and France, this book illustrates how variations in these factors – as well as a variety of causal processes – produce divergent civic integration policy strategies that, ultimately, preserve and anchor national understandings of membership.

Sara Wallace Goodman is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. She has previously held a postdoctoral fellowship at Maastricht University, in association with the EUDO Citizenship Observatory. Her work has been published in *World Politics*, *West European Politics*, *Political Studies*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and has received awards from the European Politics and Society Section and the Migration and Citizenship Section of the American Political Science Association as well as from the British Politics Group.

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*Dedicated to
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Acknowledgments

Anyone who knows me is already aware – or could probably guess – that the “Acknowledgments” section is my favorite part of any book. Not merely does it contextualize an academic work among a cast of intellectual influences, it primarily personalizes the author behind the work. And, at my Midwestern core, I am, alas, a “people person.” To wit, I can say without qualification that this work would not be what it is, nor would I be who I am, were it not for the brilliant and helpful people with whom I have been fortunate enough to cross paths. I hope this acknowledgment successfully expresses my sincerest appreciation, though I fear mere words may be insufficient to convey the full spectrum of my gratitude.

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