

GENDERING THE RENAISSANCE COMMONWEALTH

This pioneering and innovative study challenges modern assumptions of what constitutes the political and the public in Renaissance thought. Offering gendered readings of a wide array of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century political thinkers, with a particular focus on the two prime thinkers of the early modern state, Niccolò Machiavelli and Jean Bodin, Anna Becker reconstructs a neglected but important classical tradition in political thought. Exploring how ‘the political’ was incorporated into a range of ‘private’ or ‘apolitical’ topics by early modern thinkers, Becker demonstrates how both republican and absolutist thinkers – the two poles which organise early modern political thought – relied on gendered justifications. In doing so, she reveals how the foundations of the modern state were significantly shaped by gendered concerns.

ANNA BECKER is Professor MSO in the Department of Philosophy and History of Ideas at Aarhus University. She has published widely on topics in early modern political thought and political culture, including political Aristotelianism, oeconomics and gender, and colonial masculinities. She was awarded the Balzan–Skinner Fellowship for Modern Intellectual History 2014/15.

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978-1-108-48705-4 — Gendering the Renaissance Commonwealth
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108487054
DOI: 10.1017/9781108765404

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First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Becker, Anna K., 1978– author.

TITLE: Gendering the Renaissance commonwealth / Anna Becker.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY :
Cambridge University Press, 2020. |

SERIES: Ideas in context | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019017864 | ISBN 9781108487054 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781108732130 (paperback)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Sex role—Europe—History. | Renaissance—Europe.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC HQ1075.5.E85 G463 2020 | DDC 305.3094—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019017864>

ISBN 978-1-108-48705-4 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to finally be able to thank the people and institutions who helped to make this book. I would first like to thank the Danish National Research Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation for their generous aid in providing the time and the funds to write and revise this book.

My greatest debt is to Annabel Brett, who has supported the book over many years with the utmost generosity and kindness. I owe her gratitude for many things, one of which is suggesting the title of this book. She is a role model on how to think and on how to teach thinking, and I hope I can give to my students what she gave to me. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal in Basel has been an unfailing source of encouragement and optimism, and a perceptive interlocutor about early modern gendered politics. Almut Höfert made it possible for me to go on research leave and to write the final version of this book in 2017–18, within the framework of her SNF-funded project on *Geschlechterambiguitäten*, and I am grateful for her continued interest, scholarly insights, and friendship. These three women represent what is best in academia, and I am grateful that this book has such strong female companions.

I am extremely grateful also to Mette Birkedal Bruun and the Centre for Privacy Studies in Copenhagen for giving this book its last home before publication. Spending three months in Cambridge as a Balzan–Skinner Fellow also helped my thinking along and I am extremely grateful to CRASSH and to its director Simon Goldhill for giving me a home during this time. I owe an immense debt to Quentin Skinner for his wonderful encouragement throughout the years. I am very much indebted to Peter Stacey for the constant encouragement and the enthusiasm he has shown this book, to Anja Rathmann-Lutz, who discussed many aspects of the manuscript with me, and to Richard Serjeantson, who helped this book with his scholarly generosity. I am also deeply grateful to Magnus Ryan and to Martin van Gelderen for their wonderful and unwavering support

Acknowledgements

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over many years. It is a pleasure to finally extend warm thanks to Iain McDaniel, who has accompanied this book with great support and friendship almost since its beginning.

I would also like to thank the series editors, particularly John Robertson and David Armitage, for their support. At Cambridge University Press, Liz Friend-Smith has been the kindest and most patient editor. Ian McIver and Ishwarya Mathavan have been instrumental in shaping this book, and I owe a great amount of gratitude to the anonymous reviewers for their generous and insightful readings of the manuscript.

I would like to thank my many friends and colleagues in Cambridge, Basel, and Copenhagen for their patience and their willingness to discuss aspects of my book, particularly Doohwan Ahn, Daniel Allemann, Caroline Arni, Barbara Bilkenroth, Susanna Burghartz, Livia Cárdenas, Maike Christadler, Rikke Lyngsø Christensen, Isabell Gatzner, Angus Gowland, Tom Hopkins, Laura Kaye, Pernille Ulla Knudsen, Achatz von Müller, Sophie Nicholls, Sophie Ruppel, Mirianne Sala, and Fredrik Torisson.

Writing about families in the past makes me feel extremely grateful for the very large extended family I am a part of, and I would like to thank them all, particularly my sister Lisa, for their patience (and their very particular sense of humour).

My deepest gratitude is to my parents, who supported this book and me in so many ways, and to whom this book is dedicated, with love.

Note on the Text

Editions

Where available, I have used modern critical editions of all medieval and early modern works cited. Where such have not been available, I have used the first editions where possible, and where not, the earliest possible subsequent edition. Exceptions to this rule are indicated in the text.

Translations and Spelling

All translations are my own unless indicated. I have generally given the original Latin, French, and Italian without altering spellings or punctuation where practicable. Contractions are written out in full. While I have retained the original sixteenth-century spelling of '*republique*' when citing quotations in the footnotes, I have used the modern spelling '*r publique*' in the text.