

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Public and Nonprofit Administration

edited by

Andrew Whitford

*University of Georgia*

Robert Christensen

*Brigham Young University*

## HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GOVERN CULTURE WAR CONFLICTS

Mark Chou

*Australian Catholic University*

Rachel Busbridge

*Australian Catholic University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-81168-2 — How Local Governments Govern Culture War Conflicts  
Mark Chou , Rachel Busbridge  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

**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](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108811682](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108811682)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108867825

© Mark Chou and Rachel Busbridge 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020

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

ISBN 978-1-108-81168-2 Paperback  
ISSN 2515-4303 (online)  
ISSN 2515-429X (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## How Local Governments Govern Culture War Conflicts

Elements in Public and Nonprofit Administration

DOI: 10.1017/9781108867825  
First published online: November 2020

Mark Chou  
*Australian Catholic University*

Rachel Busbridge  
*Australian Catholic University*

**Author for correspondence:** Mark Chou, [Mark.Chou@acu.edu.au](mailto:Mark.Chou@acu.edu.au)

**Abstract:** While local governments have traditionally been thought of as relatively powerless and unpolitical, this has been rapidly changing. Recent years have seen local governments jump headfirst into a range of so-called culture war conflicts like those concerning LGBTI rights, refugee protection, and climate change. Using the Australia Day and Columbus Day controversies as case studies, this Element rejuvenates research on how local governments respond to culture war conflicts, documenting new fronts in the culture wars as well as the changing face of local government. In doing so, this Element extends foundational research by advancing four new categories of responsiveness that scholars and practitioners can employ to better understand the varied roles local governments play in contentious culture war conflicts.

**Keywords:** local government, culture wars, urban public administration, Columbus Day, Australia Day

© Mark Chou and Rachel Busbridge 2020

ISBNs: 9781108811682 (PB), 9781108867825 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2515-4303 (online), 2515-429X (print)

## Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Local Government and Culture Wars: Sharp's Typology of Responses	15
3	Conceptualizing Culture War Conflicts	26
4	American Local Government Responses to Columbus Day	33
5	Australian Local Government Responses to Australia Day	44
6	Refining Local Governmental Responses to Culture Wars	54
7	Conclusion	67
	Bibliography	71