Special Issue

The Body Politic: Women's Bodies and Political Conflict

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue centers on the ways in which women's bodies serve as a narrative and frame for contentious politics. Judicial nominations, presidential campaigns, policy debates, and local conflicts—across a wide variety of policy contexts—focus on women's bodies as a platform for political contestation. Yet, despite the centering of politics on the subject of women's bodies, women continue to be deprived of basic protections and liberties. We see this at play in a range of policy arenas—health care, employment, and family planning to name a few—where women's bodies are the subject of policy campaigns, but where women's welfare is neglected or subverted.

We are accepting manuscripts that interrogate these kinds of political dynamics in a variety of policy domains and locations—the context for these conflicts. We are hoping to catalyze important conversations both inside the academy and beyond about the problematic use of women's bodies as a political wedge and the continued erasing of women's experiences—particularly women with intersecting identities—in policy content.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 April 2021)



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds Laws in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. Laws brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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