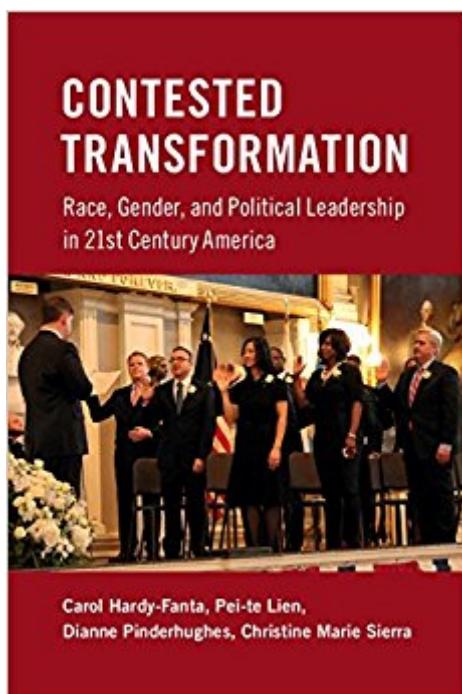


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Contested Transformation: Race, Gender, And Political Leadership In 21st Century America



Synopsis

Contested Transformation constitutes the first comprehensive study of racial and ethnic minorities holding elective office in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Building on data from the Gender and Multicultural Leadership (GMCL) National Database and Survey, it provides a baseline portrait of Black, Latino, Asian American, and American Indian elected officials - the women and men holding public office at national, state, and local levels of government. Analysis reveals commonalities and differences across race and gender groups on their backgrounds, paths to public office, leadership roles, and policy positions. Challenging mainstream political science theories in their applicability to elected officials of color, the book offers new understandings of the experiences of those holding public office today. Gains in political leadership and influence by people of color are transforming the American political landscape, but they have occurred within a contested political context, one where struggles for racial and gender equality continue.

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Customer Reviews

"Contested Transformation provides a treasure trove of valuable information about men and women of color in public office not found anywhere else. It really is the first of its kind. It no doubt will serve as the baseline reference for many other scholars." Beth Reingold, Emory University, Atlanta "With its focus on documenting the increases in women and men of color serving in elective office, this book is a significant contribution to understanding the implications of this trend, particularly

observable at the subnational level of American politics. This stellar team of scholars presents an exceptional example of intersectional analyses that is critically comparative across and within groups. Indeed it is required reading for scholars interested in engaging the twenty-first-century realities of increased diversity in governing institutions." Wendy G. Smooth, Ohio State University"An indispensable resource and an instant classic, *Contested Transformation* opens a new window on studies of representation in the United States. Hardy-Fanta, Lien, Pinderhughes, and Sierra provide invaluable guidance for analyzing how elected officials of color of all genders are transforming American politics." Jane Yunhee Junn, University of Southern California"Contested Transformation demonstrates that much of the conventional wisdom about candidates and officeholders gets turned on its head when racial and ethnic minorities are centered in the analysis. The authors' comprehensive data on minority elected officials at state and local levels, their comparative analysis across racial and ethnic minority groups, their focus on women of color, and their application of an intersectional lens make this book a unique and indispensable resource."

Susan J. Carroll, Rutgers University, New Jersey

The book constitutes the first study of racial and ethnic minorities holding elective office in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. It offers new understandings of the experiences of the men and women holding public office today, as well as their backgrounds and policy positions.

This text is a MUST Read for all Multi-Cultural classes in higher-education courses in: psychology, sociology, human services, social work, education, ethnic studies, Chicana/o Studies, Native American Studies, and Asian Studies. This text helps the reader understand the systemic policies of discrimination for communities of color and more importantly brings light to current political leaders of color, including our beloved sisters and brothers from our GLBTQS & Two Spirited communities. Change is here, and we are all responsible for our political leaders---we must, -- at our highest political office---our President---hold everyone accountable to ensure fair and equitable housing, education, health and attention to our undocumented community members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. As my mentor, Dr. Vincent Harding/Scholar/Elder of the Civil Rights Movement, told me in Seminary School at Illif School of Theology: Sister Christina, we cannot change over 500 years of discrimination in 50 years, since the 1960's Civil Rights Movements. It will take all of us to co-create strong communities of change and power is with THE PEOPLE! I am sure that Dr. Harding would welcome this text.

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