

**DENISE WALSH**  
University of Virginia  
232 Cabell Hall  
Charlottesville, VA 22904  
434-982-2131 – [denise@virginia.edu](mailto:denise@virginia.edu)

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor of Politics and Studies in Women and Gender, University of Virginia, August 2005-

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Department of Political Science, New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2006. **Award Winning Dissertation:** *Just Debate: Culture and Gender Justice in the New South Africa*

M.A., Columbia University, New York, New York, 1986.

B.A., Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont, 1985.

### **GRANTS AND HONORS**

**Best Dissertation Prize for the Women in Politics Research Section** of the American Political Science Association, 2007

University of Virginia Summer Grant, 2007

Co-winner of the Journal of Southern African Studies **Best Article Prize**, 2006

Hannah Arendt Award in Politics, **Best Politics Dissertation**, New School for Social Research, 2006

University of Virginia Summer Grant, 2006

Excellence in Diversity Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2005-2006

American Political Science Association Travel Award, 2004

New School for Social Research Dissertation Research Award, 2003

New School for Social Research Travel and Conference Award, 2003

Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2000 and 2002

New School for Social Research Tuition Scholarship, 2001

APSA Graduate Student Stipend for Elite Interviewing Short Course, 2001

Ira Katznelson Fellowship, New School for Social Research, 2000

New School for Social Research Dissertation Fellowship, 1999

New School for Social Research Tuition Scholarship, 1998

### **CURRENT RESEARCH**

- **Books**

*Public Debate and Gender Justice in South Africa.* Does more open and inclusive public debate promote gender justice? I compare debate conditions and women's rights in South Africa across time and geographic location to confirm that public attitudes and legislation toward women's rights do improve, but social practices and government expenditure are resistant.

*Culture and Women's Rights in Southern Africa*. How do democratizing countries with powerful cultural conservatives make decisions about contentious gender issues? Do those decisions challenge inequality? Why or why not? This project aims to answer these questions through a comparative analysis of policy decisions and legal practices on violence against women, customary marriage and inheritance rights in Botswana, South Africa and Namibia.

- **Papers**

“Deliberation and Gendered Citizenship”. This paper compares women’s participation in the state and civil society in South Africa, Chile and Poland to evaluate the extent to which more open and inclusive debate enhanced women’s citizenship.

“Rejecting the Culture-Rights Dilemma in South Africa”. This paper argues that attacks on culture in South Africa have contributed toward liberal complacency over urban women’s status, divided women politically and done little to improve women’s lives. It then examines why different cultural rights claims have been treated differently by the state.

“Gender and the Mass Media in Post-Apartheid South Africa”. This paper integrates feminist media scholarship with public sphere theory to assess women’s participation in the South African media during the first ten years of democracy.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- **Edited Volumes**

Lead Editor, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Special Issue: Women and Gender in Southern Africa, 32 (1) 2006.

- **Journal Articles**

Introduction with Pamela Scully, “Altering Politics, Contesting Gender,” *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 32 (1) 2006: 1-12.

“The Liberal Moment: Women and Just Debate in South Africa,” *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 32 (1) 2006: 85-106. **Co-winner of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* 2006 Best Article Prize.**

- **Book Articles**

“Theory and Praxis: Gender and Civil Society in South Africa,” in Hannah Britton, Jennifer Fish and Sheila Meintjes, eds. *Organizing Across Divides: Gender and Democratization in South African Civil Society*, under review.

- **Book Reviews**

*Politics & Gender*, forthcoming. Shireen Hassim. *Women's Organizations and Democracy in South Africa: Contesting Authority*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.

*African Affairs*, July 2007. Amanda Gouws, ed. *(Un)thinking Citizenship: Feminist Debates in Contemporary South Africa*. Hants, England: Ashgate Publishing Lmted., 2005.

- **Popular Articles**

“Your Culture or Your Rights,” in Jessica R. Feldman and Robert Stilling, eds. *Thinking of Reading: A University of Virginia Guide*, Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, August 2008.

“Second Fiddle to Fear,” *Phi Delta Kappan*, Special Issue: Patriotism and Education, 87(8) April 2006: 614. Reprinted in Joel Westheimer, ed. *Pledging Allegiance: The Politics of Patriotism in America’s Schools*, New York: Teachers College Press, 2007.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

African Studies Association 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, ““Rejecting the Culture-Rights Dilemma: Customary Law and Women as Symbols in South Africa,” to be held in New York, NY, October 18-21, 2007.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, “Deliberation, Gender and the State in South Africa,” Chicago, IL, August 30-September 1, 2007.

African Studies Association Annual Conference, “The Gendered Limits of Civil Society in South Africa,” San Francisco, CA, November 15-19, 2006.

Human Sciences Research Council Conference, “Limits to Participation: Gender and Mass Media in the New South Africa,” Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 5-7, 2006.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, “Limiting Gender Justice: Democratic Consolidation and Deliberation in South Africa,” Philadelphia, PA, August 28-31, 2003.

International Political Science Association, “Public Debate and Gender Reform After the South African Liberal Moment,” Durban, South Africa, June 29-July 4, 2003.

Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, “Public Debate and the Legitimacy of Gender Equality in South Africa,” Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2003.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, “Public Debate and the Limits of Customary Law Reform in South Africa,” Boston, MA, August 29-September 1, 2002.

9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Africanists, “Confrontation and Transformation: Customary Marriage in South Africa,” Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia, May 21-23, 2002.

Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, “Assessing Public Deliberation and Women’s Rights in South Africa, 1994-1996,” Chicago, IL, April 24-28, 2002.

Fifth North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, "The Public Participates: Cultural Resistance and the Struggle for Women's Constitutional Right to Equality in South Africa," Burlington, VT, April 19-21, 2002.

International Studies Association-Northeast Region/Northeast Political Science Association Conference, "Moving Beyond Cross-Cultural Dialogue: Just Debate, Culture and Gender Reform in Poland, Morocco and South Africa," Philadelphia, PA, November 8-10, 2001.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Gender, democratization and public debate in sub-Saharan Africa. Multiculturalism and women's rights in sub-Saharan Africa. Nationalism, hypermodernity and intersectionality in South Africa.

### **FIELD RESEARCH ABROAD**

South Africa: Summer 2006, 2003 and January 2001

### **TEACHING COMPETENCIES**

Concepts and theories of comparative politics and gender politics, with specialties in democratization, South African politics, gender in developing countries and sub-Saharan Africa. Modern and contemporary political theory, especially identity politics and deliberative theory.

### **COURSES**

412 Rights, Identity and Gender Justice  
435 Gender and the Public Sphere  
335 Gender Politics in Comparative Perspective  
524 Gender Politics in Africa

### **LANGUAGES**

French: Read, write, speak at an intermediate level

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association  
African Studies Association

**PERSONAL**

Extensively traveled throughout Western and Eastern Europe, the U.S.

**REFERENCES**

Nancy Fraser

Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor

Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science

65 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10003

212-229-5747

[FraserN@newschool.edu](mailto:FraserN@newschool.edu)

Shireen Hassim

Senior Lecturer

Department of Political Studies

Private Bag 3

University of the Witwatersrand

2050 South Africa

27 11 717-4364

[hassims@social.wits.ac.za](mailto:hassims@social.wits.ac.za)

Mala Htun

Assistant Professor

Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science

65 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10003

212-229-5793

[Htun@mindspring.com](mailto:Htun@mindspring.com)

David Plotke

Associate Professor, Department Chair

Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science

65 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10003

212-229-5748

[plotked@newschool.edu](mailto:plotked@newschool.edu)