This chapter discusses the controversy generated by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government's decision to extend reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in higher education. It looks at two issues that have dominated Indian policy debates with regards to reservations for OBCs. The first issue is about whether caste is an indicator of disadvantage, while the second issue pertains to the conception of backwardness. The chapter shows that many issues still remain unresolved, such as the position of the more affluent segments and the position of minorities.

Conclusion

Justin Farrell

This concluding chapter begins by summarizing key themes. It argues that the findings in this study raise supplementary questions that might be investigated in future studies about morality, technorationality, and policy conflict. It sets out questions that provide a good place to start for researchers and policymakers alike. These are, what is the role of science and technical expertise? Does it make a practical difference to stakeholders if they become more aware of their moral assumptions?
How do we assess whether some moral arguments are more compelling than others? Does power rest in the logical cogency of an argument, as some moral philosophers might contend? The chapter also discusses the broader theoretical implications of this study for sociology.

Power, participation and political renewal
Marian Barnes

Public participation is central to a wide range of current public policies — not only in the UK, but elsewhere in the developed and the developing world. There are substantial aspirations for what enhanced participation can achieve. This book offers a critical examination of both the discourse and practice of participation in order to understand the significance of this explosion in participatory forums, and the extent to which such practices represent a fundamental change in governance. Based on 17 case studies across a range of policy areas in two English cities, the chapters address key issues such as: the way in which notions of the public are constructed; the motivation of participants; how the interests and identities of officials and citizens are negotiated within forums; and the ways in which institutions enable and constrain the development of participation initiatives. Much of the literature on public participation is highly normative. This book draws from detailed empirical work, theories of governance, deliberative democracy, and social movements to offer a nuanced account of the dynamics of participation and to suggest why these experiences can be frustrating as well as transformative.

Introduction
Marian Barnes, Janet Newman, and Helen Sullivan

This book discusses public participation, drawn substantially on research carried out as part of the Economic and Social Research Council's Democracy and Participation programme as well as related work by the authors. It addresses the means in which public policy discourses construct notions of the public and engage with a diversity of publics in a plural polity. It explores the motivations of participants and the ways in
which the identities and interests of officials and citizens are negotiated. It examines the ways in which institutions enable and constrain the development of public participation initiatives, including the way in which debate and dialogue can take place within participation forums, and what consequences such deliberations may have for public policies. It considers whether participation makes a difference to the conduct of officials or to the processes of delivering public services. Finally, it explores the dynamics produced as groups that have their origins in voluntary or community activity encounter public bodies seeking to engage in dialogue with them.

Caring for Our Own
Sandra R. Levitsky

Aging populations and changes in health care, household structure, and women’s labor force participation over the last half century have created a “crisis in care”: demand for care of the old and infirm is rapidly growing, while the supply of private care within the family is substantially contracting. And yet despite the adverse effects of the long-term care crisis on the economic security of families and the health of family caregivers, American families have demonstrated little inclination for translating their private care problems into political demands for social policy reform. Caring for Our Own inverts an enduring question of social welfare politics. Rather than asking why the American state, a known laggard in all matters involving social welfare, hasn’t responded to unmet needs by expanding social entitlements, this book asks: Why don’t American families view unmet needs as the basis for demands for new state entitlements? How do traditional beliefs in family responsibility for social welfare persist even in the face of unmet need? The answer, this book argues, lies in a better understanding of how individuals imagine solutions to their social welfare problems and what prevents politicized understandings of social welfare provision from developing into political demand for reform. This book considers the ways in which existing social policies shape the political imagination, reinforcing longstanding values about family responsibility, subverting grievances grounded in notions of social responsibility, and in some rare cases, constructing new models of social provision that transcend existing ideological divisions in American politics.
Beyond behaviour change
Fiona Spotswood (ed.)

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Item type: book

Through its 14 chapters, this book presents a first view of the different perspectives within the fragmented field of behaviour change. The first part presents a series of perspectives of behaviour change as it is currently researched and implemented. This includes an overview of theories of behaviour, of evaluation and intervention design, the various approaches to behaviour change policy and a review of both behavioural economics and social marketing. The second part presents a series of approaches which are more concerned with questioning underlying conditions in which problematic behaviours occur. The activities of commercial marketers are scrutinised, the ethics and efficacy of participatory approaches – without systemic change - are questioned, and theories of practice and whole-system approaches are offered as perspectives which lead to a more complete picture of ‘problem’ behaviours and how to change them. The book paints a picture of a field that is undoubtedly fragmented and subject to a series of forces, both internally and externally. It highlights the breadth of perspectives and does not seek to hide the conflicts between them. Rather, the book seeks to suggest the potential of transdisciplinary behaviour change and to pave the way for further innovative discussions across the field and the setting of a firm agenda for its future.

A Shared Future
Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton

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Item type: book

A Shared Future analyzes contemporary political work for racial equity in the United States within a social movement sector known as faith-based community organizing. In collaboration with faith communities and other organizations, some faith-based community organizing coalitions work for racial equity within their own structures and in the wider society. The book draws on the National Study of Community Organizing Coalitions and on interview, ethnographic, and documentary data to analyze how racial equity fits within the movement’s longstanding work against economic inequality in society and policy paralysis in government. Part I analyzes the organizational infrastructure, leadership, and diversity
within the overall movement. Part II analyzes the transition from the movement’s historic emphasis on a ‘race-blind’ organizational culture to a systematic focus on racial equity within one network of coalitions. The PICO National Network serves as a case study for the role of leadership, ideas (especially ‘implicit bias’ and ‘targeted universalism’), and the dynamic use of religious faith in their pursuit of racial equity and organizational transformation. The book argues that some sectors of faith-based community organizing are strategically positioned to be nationally significant actors against economic inequality, policy paralysis, and racial injustice – but that the movement as a whole must develop greater strategic capacity if it is to play that role. The final chapters of the book consider the role of organizational challenges and innovation in building strategic capacity, and draw on democratic theory to suggest how political activists, religious leaders, and democratic funders can build ethical democracy in America.

Brain culture
Jessica Pykett

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This book offers a timely analysis of the impact of rapidly advancing knowledge about the brain, mind and behaviour on contemporary public policy and practice. Drawing on in-depth interviews with professionals in a range of social spheres including architecture and urban design, education, and the workplace, the book examines the global spread of policy strategies, UK based policy experiments and everyday practice informed by ‘brain culture’. It explores how neuroscientific, behavioural and psychological explanation have become increasingly influential in such fields, and examines their repercussions for governing citizens. Analysis of a neural turn in research, policy and practice is offered through the development of a geographical focus on behaviour, including the role of context, scale and situatedness in re-shaping political agency. The book provides a grounded critical commentary on the burgeoning field of social, cultural and political aspects of brain culture. It offers an alternative set of explanations for what matters in explaining why people behave in certain ways and how citizens’ behaviour could and should be governed.
Voluntary sector in transition

Linda Milbourne

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Voluntary and community organisations have attracted growing interest, as governments pare back the public sphere and welfare spending and locate ‘solutions’ with civil society and the private sector. This book explores growth and re-shaping in the UK voluntary sector following sweeping reforms to cultures and arrangements in public services, including the spread of welfare outsourcing, associated performance and risk management and shifts towards collaborative governance. Drawing on contemporary social and organisational theory, policy debates and empirical research focused on small voluntary organisations, the book identifies an erosion of trust in cross-sector relationships and an incursion of governmental power into previously autonomous terrain. It questions whether voluntary sector health and survival now depend on re-aligning activities and compromising independent goals and values to state and corporate interests and the spaces that exist for alternatives. Changes in government illustrate continuities and shifts in ideology, strategy and discourse but this book highlights the effects of these on experiences at organisational level, where ambiguity, tensions and contested territory generate unpredictable local outcomes from both compliance and resistance. Many of the issues framing this research and posing dilemmas and hard times for the contemporary voluntary sector have wider relevance and also inhabit public agencies: issues around autonomy; values and approaches around delivering welfare; tensions around local accountability; unmanageable service demands; financial survival; and doing more for less. The book contributes to a growing field of research and offers important reading for scholars and practitioners in organisational study, public policy and voluntary sector domains.

Edward Schatz on Manar Shorbagy

Virginia R. Domínguez and Jane C. Desmond (eds)

in Global Perspectives on the United States: Pro-Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and the Discourses Between

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This essay is a response to Manar Shorbagy’s contribution in this book, Global Perspectives on the United States. It argues that Shorbagy is correct in stating that U.S. policy in the region produces the very resistance to its policies that it seeks to undermine, but it also wants to extend the argument beyond analysis of policies. Schatz, for example, insists that ordinary people and political actors form their opinions and pursue their agendas not solely based on policy calculations, and he stresses that this is more important than Shorbagy’s essay presents. He asks several questions in his response to Shorbagy’s analysis of Kefaya: (1) Is Kefaya likely to survive the Obama Administration, the next U.S. president, their different foreign policy choices, and at times very different rhetoric, given its trans-ideological nature uniting Islamists and secular democrats? (2) Will Kefaya need to move beyond critiques of “foreign threats and political despotism” and demonstrate its efficacy to the broader public? And (3) is it possible that the new U.S. administration could engineer new modes of engagement in the region that are much less beholden to old patterns of behavior?

Seyed Mohammad Marandi on Schatz and Shorbagy
Virginia R. Domínguez and Jane C. Desmond (eds)
in Global Perspectives on the United States: Pro-Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and the Discourses Between
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This essay draws on Chomsky, and notes that for many people the term “anti-Americanism” works like a tool preventing criticism of the U.S. It argues that the term frames the narrative and helps depict sharp criticism of the U.S. as irrational and excessive. Hence, this essay appreciates Shorbagy’s statement that anti-Americanism has played a huge role in fusing the forces that became “Kefaya,” and that this Egyptian movement represents an alternative form of resistance to American empire, and yet he argues that these statements could be interpreted quite differently by different people. Marandi argues that Schatz, on the other hand, seems to believe that anti-Americanism is indeed irrational and that those who are anti-American actually blame the U.S. for problems that have little to do with America. Marandi argues that there is a big difference between the two essays, that Schatz stresses image construction while Shorbagy insists that it is U.S. policies toward the region that constitute the fundamental problem. Marandi also sees Shorbagy’s essay as stating that anti-Americanism is widespread in the region and, thereby, contradicting Schatz.
Introduction
Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton
in A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy

Three demons bedevil contemporary American democracy in the domestic realm: economic inequality, the paralysis of federal policy-making, and racial injustice. American politics in the years ahead will be driven by the struggle over whether to address these demons, and how best to do so. In the background of that struggle lies a related tension: that between universalist and multiculturalist democratic ideals. The Introduction argues that faith-based community organizing represents a critical case for studying this tension between democratic ideals within a movement dedicated to fighting economic inequality, policy paralysis, and racial injustice – in part because this movement now has the scale and strategic ambition to actually make a difference in these fights. But doing so will require the wider spread and deeper critical appropriation of recent strategic innovations in the field. Faith-based community organizing also reveals religion’s capacity to help bridge universalist and multiculturalist visions of democratic life, and thus offers insight into another contemporary democratic dilemma: the role of religion in public life.

Strategic Innovation and Democratic Theory
Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton
in A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy

This chapter summarizes how faith-based community organizing challenges three key demons of contemporary American democracy: rising economic inequality, racial injustice, and the continuing paralysis of federal policy-making. It also summarizes this book’s analysis of the dynamics through which some sectors of faith-based community organizing have come to embrace an explicit focus on racial equity work, and of the tension between universalist and multiculturalist democratic
ideals as they play out in that work. Religious culture and participants’
diverse spiritual commitments have been central in integrating
commitments to equality, effective policy-making, and racial equity
within a coherent organizational culture; spiritual and political reflexivity
have been particularly crucial in sustaining organizational coherence
through the resulting challenges of organizational transformation. The
chapter also analyzes the role of those challenges – and of the creativity
they demand in response – in generating strategic innovation, which
underlies much of the field’s recent transformation. The chapter closes
by reprising the theoretical stakes within the book’s analysis, arguing
that a certain kind of moral and political universalism underlies the
success of faith-based organizing. Faith-based community organizing
thus offers important lessons for the historic struggle for ethical
democracy in America.

Conclusion
Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton
in A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical
Democracy

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Item type: chapter

This unconventional conclusion considers the broad struggle for ethical
democracy in the contemporary world. The chapter draws on the work
of Jurgen Habermas to argue that constructing ethical democracy will
require re-anchoring democratic life within society. Contemporary
democratic dilemmas arise due to the gargantuan growth of the
‘Systems’ of Politics and the Economy. Absent adequate structures of
accountability to hold these Systems in service to society, they dominate
and ‘colonize’ society, pathologically distorting human communities
via excessive pressures rooted in money and power. Existing social
theory suggests that social movements and the legal system hold the
key to reversing this distortion. But this assumption underestimates how
social movements and the legal system are themselves colonized and
distorted. The struggle for ethical democracy must draw not only on
social movements and the law, but also on: i) moral/ethical anchoring in
secular and religious traditions; and ii) alliances with individual reformists
in the Systems whose worldviews and commitments have been shaped
by such ethical anchoring. By ‘bootstrapping’ democracy to raise the
capacity of human communities to hold the political and economic
systems in service to society, we can gradually move toward something
closer to ethical democracy.
How did activists create a dynamic broad-based movement during NAFTA negotiations that politicized trade, making it a contentious issue for the first time in history? And how did their NAFTA mobilization influence trade policy and set the stage for future battles over trade? Trade Battles answers these questions using data from over 200 in-depth interviews, contributing to a vibrant and burgeoning literature that tries to understand how civil society shapes state policy. Trade Battles shows how activists created a new set of institutionalized and disruptive strategies around trade that leveraged broader cleavages across state and nonstate arenas. Activists exploited these leverage points by mobilizing across them, which enabled them to politicize trade policy and influence the content of the agreement itself. So powerful was activists’ pushback against NAFTA that future administrations closed many state institutional channels in order to thwart public opposition, curtailing public access, participation, and input. This forced activists to try to kill many subsequent trade agreements whole cloth rather than improve them, as they did during the NAFTA struggle. The analysis in Trade Battles therefore shows that the NAFTA battle was less about trade policy than the role of democratic state institutions in policymaking. By exposing the linkages between institutional opportunities and democratic practices, Trade Battles reveals how critical state institutions are for activists’ efforts to shape not only trade policy, but a plethora of international policies from climate change to migration. When the state closes institutions, it effectively severs policymaking from democratic intervention.

Frenemies
Nancy Whittier
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Item type: book

What happens when activists who usually oppose each other work to advance similar goals? This book re-conceptualizes models of social movements’ relationships with each other and develops a new framework for understanding relationships that are neither coalitions nor countermovements. Rich, empirically grounded case studies of
opposition to pornography, child sexual abuse policy, and the Violence Against Women Act show how feminists and conservatives engaged with the issues and with each other, the differences between their approaches, and both their points of overlap and their power struggles. Each case illustrates a different type of relationship: an adversarial yet collaborative interaction around pornography; a narrow, issue-specific, and politically neutral opposition to child sexual abuse; and an ambivalent alliance confined to the policy arena for the Violence Against Women Act. Focusing on activism targeting the federal government from 1980 to 2013, the book draws on a unique, in-depth dataset, including transcripts of Congressional hearings and movement documents, to analyze interpretive processes within the state. Activists constructed frames that enabled cross-ideological support, dealt with the reputational risk of appearing to consort with the enemy, and sometimes compromised or de-emphasized controversial goals in favor of areas of commonality. In the end, feminists and conservatives influenced policy and culture to different degrees in the three case studies, depending on their relative power. Frenemies draws powerful lessons about both the benefits and risks of collaboration across ideological difference.

The Fiscalization of Social Policy
Joshua T. McCabe

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This book challenges the conventional wisdom on American exceptionalism, offering the first and only comparative analysis of the politics of child and in-work tax credits. This comparative approach, analyzing the US, Canada, and the UK, upends everything we thought we knew about the politics of tax credits, accounting for both the timing of their development and the distribution of their benefits among families across liberal welfare regimes. Rather than attributing these changes to antiwelfare attitudes, mobilization of conservative forces, shifts toward workfare, or racial antagonism, the book argues that the growing use of tax credits for social policy was a strategic adaptation to austerity in all three countries but that the historical absence of family allowances in the US left the country with a policy legacy that institutionalized a distinct “logic of tax relief,” ensuring that the poorest American families would be ineligible for tax credits. Focusing on the twin puzzles of the growth and distribution of new tax credits across the three countries, the book explains both their convergence on the use of these tax credits and the US’ divergence from the UK and Canada on the distribution of these tax credits’ benefits.
The fifth chapter continues to trace the migrations of the gendered modernization ethos beyond the Peace Corps, delineating the agency’s relationship to both the Vietnam War and the new left through an analysis of interviews and position papers from the Committee of Returned Volunteers, a national organization of returned volunteers who formulated increasingly radical critiques of U.S. foreign policy in the late sixties.

As Europe's public realms face upheaval, this book identifies how social solidarity is being reinvented from below and redefined from above. Interdisciplinary transnational approaches provide new insights into the relationship between national and transnational social solidarity across Europe. The book reveals social solidarity as the defining pillar of European integration, bringing a greater dimension and integrity beyond democracy across nation states. It addresses four central aims. Firstly, the clarification and development of a conceptual framework for discourse on solidarity within an enlarged Europe. Secondly, the collation and synthesis of research, which focuses on systematic national and cross-national analysis of empirical data within key areas of social and public policy, enabling critical engagement with the concept of social solidarity with an enlarged Europe. Thirdly, the book aims to identify methods and processes that make a difference in the development of transnational social securities and solidarities by tracing empirical relating to transnational policy and governance practice within an increasing austere background in Europe. Finally, it examines the relationship between national and transnational social solidarity within Europe and in the wider global socio-economic context.
‘Subversion’ and the analysis of public policy
David Prior and Marian Barnes

in Subversive citizens: Power, agency and resistance in public services

This chapter reflects more precisely on what the different studies of this book have to say about ‘what’ is being subverted, ‘where’ subversive practices take place, and ‘how’ subversion happens. It offers some conclusions about what the different perspectives adopted by the contributors to this collection can offer to an understanding of this aspect of the policy process. The studies show how both officials and citizens are actively engaged in a process of working out what is ‘the right thing to do’ in particular contexts, drawing on both professional and personal identities and values and personal and professional identifications and experiences, and assessing the possibilities and limitations of the institutional context in which they are operating.