



Studies of the Americas

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Gender, Institutions, and Change in Bachelet's Chile

Edited by Georgina Waylen

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Georgina Waylen is Professor of Politics at the University of Manchester, UK. She has researched and published widely on various aspects of gender and politics, particularly transitions to democracy and political economy. She is the author of *Gender in Third World Politics* (1996) and *Engendering Transitions: Women's Mobilization, Institutions and Gender Outcomes* (2007).

"This volume is a must read for academics, students, and activists concerned with institutional design and gender equality. The fields' top scholars use an institutional framework to illuminate how rules and practices shape the passage of gender equality reforms in Chile. Anyone wishing to understand the two-term presidency of Michelle Bachelet should consult this timely, relevant, and well-edited collection."

- Jennifer Piscopo, Occidental College, USA

"This book assembles original essays from leading scholars to explore the gendered continuities and changes in political leadership dynamics and policy reforms across Michelle Bachelet's two presidencies. Applying a variety of disciplinary perspectives to study interactions between formal and informal institutions, the collection offers an innovative and politically relevant contribution to the emerging field of feminist institutionalism."

- Mona Lena Krook, Rutgers University, USA

"This volume provides nuanced analysis of Bachelet's governments' efforts to promote women and women's interests, and assesses impediments Bachelet and her team encountered due to Chile's formal institutions and informal norms of governing. The questions proposed and the excellent case study enhance our understanding about how institutions are gendered and when gendered institutions can be circumvented by determined actors, and should prompt scholars who study other countries to test its ideas in other cases."

- Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson, Texas A&M University, USA

About the book

Michele Bachelet, Chile's first female president, was elected in 2006 with an explicit gender agenda, promising to appoint new faces (including women) to her government and implement some positive gender change. After a period as the first head of UN Women, she was subsequently reelected for a second term in 2013 with a decisive majority. This volume focuses on Bachelet's efforts in both her first and second administrations to introduce progressive measures in Chile and the constraints that she has faced in a context where both formal and informal political institutions can act as barriers to change. Written by leading experts in the field, the chapters highlight both the successes of Bachelet's governments and also the key battles that Bachelet faced, for example with regard to reproductive rights, electoral reform, and social protection.

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