

or sexuality.” All in all, her own strong argumentation fortunately speaks against clichés like this.

Chancer emphasizes the power of education in continuing the feminist revolution. She reminds her readers that in the U.S. academy, millions of undergraduate and graduate students have already been taught by feminist professors, and insists that feminist ideas should be part of the mainstream curricula, from elementary school through all the levels of education. This would strengthen the means toward aims which are good for all genders: equality, intimate freedom and self-determination, and fairer representation.

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**Nichole M. Bauer, ed. *Politicking While Female: The Political Lives of Women*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2020. 200 pages. ISBN 978-0-8071-7291-0.**

This book takes on a crucial aspect of American democracy in the twenty-first century: the revolution of women in politics, or “the pink wave”. While many studies on the current state of American democracy focus on the threats to institutional integrity, the freedom of the press, and the rise of authoritarian movements, this book is based on one of the more hopeful aspects of the current political climate – that a record-breaking 309 female candidates were on the ballot for the House of Representatives in the 2018 midterm election. Furthermore, the #MeToo-movement and particularly the rise of women of color in electoral politics are forcing us not just to question existing knowledge about women in politics, but about the very structure of the political system and our academic approach to understanding it. While the lack of female representation in electoral politics is obvious, the causes are not necessarily easy to pinpoint. This excellent anthology highlights just some of the many aspects of female representation in politics.

Much research on these issues in the last decade focuses on the political system fundamentally being created for and by men. With the exception of the studies such as Deborah Jordan Brooks’ 2013 book *He Runs, She Runs: Why Gender Stereotypes Do Not Harm Women Candidates* (which found that male and female candidates are not treated any differently), research has been focused on the inherent bias, in both politics and culture

in general, which presents additional challenges to female politicians. The writers of this volume, mostly scholars in the fields of political science and political communication, take us through the journey from women as voters and potential candidates to campaigns and their challenges to, at last, how female politicians fare as leaders and legislators.

This enlightening collection uses the 2016 presidential election as a starting point – an election which turned out to be revolutionary for female participation in American electoral politics. Not in the way many thought it would be – with Hillary Clinton losing – but with the victory of Donald Trump, a candidate in open defiance of women’s progress. Women all over America were inspired to run for office in previously unseen numbers in response to the reactionary gender politics of the Trump campaign and presidency. However, the 2016 congressional election was a rare election in which the number of women in Congress remained the same. The 2018 midterm elections not only featured a record-breaking number of women on the ballot, but the way women run for office and the types of office were also revolutionized. Data collections, such as the American National Election Study and the Cooperative Congressional Election Study, provide the statistical basis for the design of the several of the studies here and their wide collections provide an opportune to address new fields of research.

One such example is the contribution by Mary-Kate Lizotte who explores the gender gap in voting, particularly relating to the 2018 midterm election, and how gender relates to other characteristics such as religion and race to determine the level of gender discrepancy in voting Democratic or Republican. Lizotte argues that it is not so much gender itself that it is the divisive factor, but rather other characteristics and social identities. Danielle Casarez Lemi’s study of multiracial female candidates illustrates how occupying multiple social identities can present a challenge for female candidates and their voters – an area which has often been overlooked.

Partisan differences are also at play in the article by Rosalyn Cooperman, who explores the gender gap between Democrats and Republicans in running and electing female candidates from a fundraising perspective. In terms of fundraising and gender-oriented organization, the Democrats massively outperform their rival party, revealing fundamental conservative hesitancy in running and electing women. In their study, Sylvia I. Gonzalez and Nichole M. Bauer find that getting elected as Democratic women is easier because female candidates more easily fit both gender and partisan stereotypes in the party, whereas female stereotypes do not fit the Republi-

can ideal of womanhood. In fact, female candidates have a much narrower selection of gender stereotypes to choose from than male candidates thus contributing to the under-representation of women in electoral politics.

However, DiTonto and Andersen use the 2016 election to highlight how the presence of a woman on the top of the ticket (Hillary Clinton) might actually have hurt the opportunities of female congressional candidates. When the number of female candidates rise, issues of gender become more visible and thus potentially trigger resentment in some voters. In this context, it would be interesting to see if the presence of Kamala Harris (both as a woman and a multiracial candidate) on the Democratic ticket had any impact on the election of women to Congress in 2020. Surprisingly, considering the other findings on partisan bias in this book, DiTonto and Andersen find that Republicans are more likely than Democrats to vote for female candidates when multiple women are on the ballot.

Finally, the book also explores why promoting female participation in politics is crucial to the health of democratic practices. In her study, Jennie Sweet-Cushman argues that the lack of female representation in state legislatures, using Pennsylvania as a case study, extends into neglecting women's issues and weakening the economic, social, and political standing of its female citizens in general. Several of the studies make a compelling argument for more women in politics not just adding to quantifiable equality, but that female politicians both pursue other political issues and use their political power differently than their male counterparts, e.g. pursuing more community-based and cooperative political practices.

Overall, this volume is impressive in its scope and convincing and compelling in its research. Combined, the articles present an all-round perspective on understanding the role of women in politics, while encouraging several ideas for further research.

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