

Gender, Religion and Political Participation in Latin America

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Abstract

While a substantial literature explores gender differences in participation in the United States and Europe, little attention has been given to gender's impact on participation in Latin America. These countries have diverse patterns of gender politics: some were leaders in suffrage reforms and equal rights while in others, divorce was only recently legalized. These differences interact with recent authoritarian legacies which may slow the growth of equality norms. In this paper, we examine the relationship between gender and participation in seventeen Latin American countries. In particular, we explore the way historical and institutional frameworks of each country shape gender's role in politics.

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