

Week 4: Monday 4/21 – Feminism and U.S. Institutions

- Mary Hawkesworth, “Congressional Enactments of Race–Gender: Toward a Theory of Raced–Gendered Institutions” (*American Political Science Review* v.97, #4, Nov 2003, p. 529-550)
 1. Where does Hawkesworth give her readers a map of the article, and guideposts along the way?
 2. What does Hawkesworth mean when she says that “Politics has produced race and gender...” (531)? What examples does she give?
 3. What is “intersectionality”? Where is this concept present throughout the article?
 4. What is “racing-gendering”? How is it manifested, i.e. what are its direct and indirect effects?
 5. What “special methods are required to uncover *how* institutions are raced-gendered” (533)? What are the differences between qualitative and quantitative studies in this regard?
 6. Why is it that “women of color may experience a loss of dignity even in victory” (538)? What have they done “to try to minimize the personal costs of raced-gendered interactions” (538)?
 7. What were the implications of the elimination of LSOs including the CBC and CCWI? How did members of those organizations respond?
 8. What kind of welfare reform was sought by Congresswomen of color? What was the basis of their arguments? What was the basis of their opponents’ arguments?
 9. What “repertoire of strategies” (546) was mobilized by Congresswomen of color during the welfare debates? What was the impact of these actions on perception of the legitimacy of the democratic process?
 10. What tactics constitute Congresswomen of color as “other”?
 11. How are stereotypical understandings of reason and emotion challenged by observation of the welfare reform debate?
 12. What further implications for the study of Congress and for the democratic process are presented by a theory of racing-gendering?