



# Gender and Political Leadership in Modern Democracies

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October 12, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

## **Summary**

Political leadership provides a number of challenges not only to those undertaking the enterprise but also to those who study the concept.

This workshop will explore the concept of political leadership within modern democracies but with a particular focus on gender. The workshop will begin by reviewing the multiple ways in which the discipline of political science has defined and studied the concept. The second part of the workshop will bring a gender lens to the examination. We will examine the ideal of good political leadership, often encapsulated by the idea of merit, and how these definitions create challenges for women who seek these positions. We will then examine current evidence relating to women's limited access to these positions, and some of the explanations offered for this more limited access.

## **Outline**

- I. The Concept of Political Leadership
  - a. Defining political leadership: Do you just know it when you see it?
  - b. Studying political leadership
- II. Gendering the Concept of Political Leadership
  - a. Barriers to Access: Stereotypes and Structures
  - b. What's merit got to do with it?
  - c. The role of the media

## **Required Readings\***

- Andrew Coyne (2015). "Trudeau cabinet should be based on merit, not gender." *National Post*, November 2, online at <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/andrew-coyne-trudeau-cabinet-should-be-built-on-merit-not-gender>.
- Alice Eagly and Madeline E. Heilman (2016). "Gender and Leadership: Introduction to the Special Issue." *The Leadership Quarterly* 27(3): 349-353. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FB6>
- Julia Gillard, "Misogyny Speech", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihd7ofrwQX0>.
- Melanie Thomas (2018). "In Crisis or Decline? Selecting Women to Lead Provincial Parties in Government." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 379-403. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FB7>
- Linda Trimble (2016). "Julia Gillard and the Gender Wars." *Politics & Gender* 12(2): 296-316. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FB8>

## **Additional Resources**

Special issue on Gender and Leadership in *The Leadership Quarterly*, volume 27, 2016.



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Diana O'Brien (2015). "Rising to the Top: Gender, Political Performance, and Party Leadership in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 59(4): 1022-1039.

R.A.W. Rhodes and Paul 't Hart, eds. (2014). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Leadership*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Linda Trimble (2017). *Ms. Prime Minister: Gender, Media, & Leadership*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca).

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