Gender, Intersections, and Institutions

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Germany serves as a case study of when and how members of intersectional groups—individuals belonging to two or more disadvantaged social categories—capture the attention of policymakers and what happens when this phenomenon occurs. This edited volume identifies three venues through which intersectional groups form alliances and generate policy discussions regarding their concerns. Original empirical case studies focus on a wide range of timely subjects, including the intersexed, gender and disability rights, lesbian parenting, women working in STEM fields, workers’ rights in feminized sectors, women in combat, and Muslim women and girls.

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Intersectional Groups Building Alliances and Gaining Voice in Germany

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Our organization came about because we were motivated to give women like us a voice and to demonstrate [our point of view] in politics. . . . We didn’t see ourselves represented in previous debates.

Wir sind aus der Motivation heraus entstanden, Frauen wie uns eine Stimme zu geben und gegenüber der Politik zu demonstrieren. . . . Wir haben uns in der Debatte vorher nicht wiedergefunden.

—Gönül Halat-Mec, Frankfurt Progressive Women’s Initiative, 2012