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Karrin Vasby Anderson

About the author

Karrin Vasby Anderson, Ph.D. is a Professor of Communication Studies at Colorado State University. She writes about the culture of politics and the politics of culture. Her book Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture...

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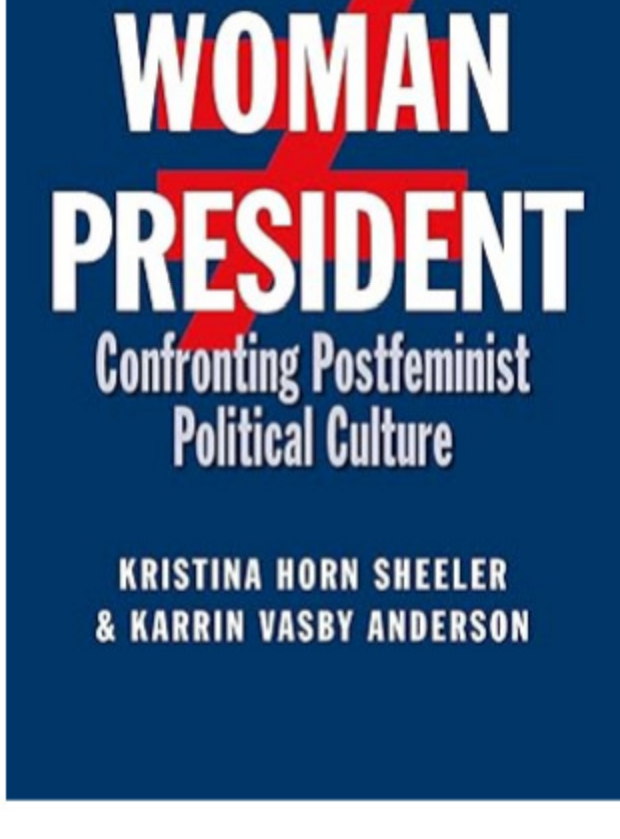
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Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture (Presidential Rhetoric and Political Communication Book 22)

Part of: Presidential Rhetoric and Political Communication (23 books)

★★★★★ 1

by Kristina Horn Sheeler et al.

What elements of American political and rhetorical culture block the imagining—and thus, the electing—of a woman as president? Examining both major-party and third-party campaigns by women, including the 2008 campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin, the authors of *Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture* identify the factors that limit electoral possibilities for women.

Pundits have been predicting women's political ascendency for years. And yet, although the 2008 presidential campaign featured Hillary Clinton as an early frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination and Sarah Palin as the first female Republican vice-presidential nominee, no woman has yet held either of the top two offices. The reasons for this are complex and varied, but the authors assert that the question certainly encompasses more than the shortcomings of women candidates or the demands of the particular political moment. Instead, the authors identify a pernicious backlash against women presidential candidates—one that is expressed in both political and popular culture.

In *Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture*, Kristina Horn Sheeler and Karrin Vasby Anderson provide a discussion of US presidentiality as a unique rhetorical role. Within that framework, [See full book details](#)

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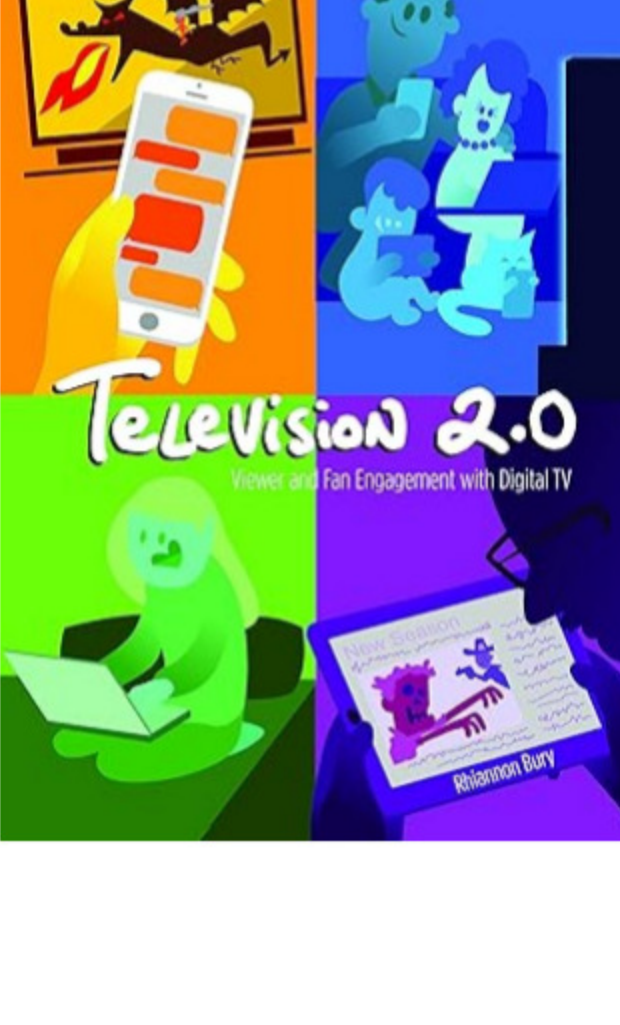
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Women, Feminism, and Pop Politics: From “Bitch” to “Badass” and Beyond (Frontiers in Political Communication Book 31)

Part of: Frontiers in Political Communication (20 books)

by Karrin Vasby Anderson

Women, Feminism, and Pop Politics: From “Bitch” to “Badass” and Beyond examines the negotiation of feminist politics and gendered political leadership in twenty-first century U.S. popular culture. In a wide-ranging survey of texts—which includes memes and digital discourses, embodied feminist performances, parody and infotainment, and televisual comedy and drama—contributing authors assess the ways in which popular culture discourses both reveal and reshape citizens' understanding of feminist politics and female political figures. Two archetypes of female identity figure prominently in its analysis. “Bitch” is a frame that reflects the twentieth-century anxiety about powerful women as threatening and unfeminine, trapping political women within the double bind between femininity and competence. “Badass” recognizes women's capacity to lead but does so in a way that deflects attention away from the persistence of sexist stereotyping and cultural misogyny. Additionally, as depictions of political women become increasingly complex and varied, fictional characters and actual women are beginning to move beyond the bitch and badass frames, fashioning collaborative and comic modes of leadership suited to the new global milieu. This book will be of interest to students and scholars interested in communication, U.S. political culture, gender and leadership, and women in media.

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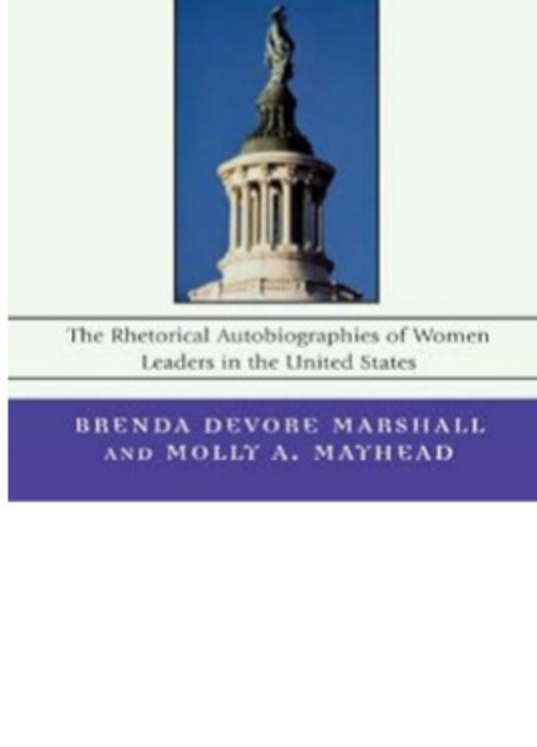
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Telling Political Lives: The Rhetorical Autobiographies of Women Leaders in the United States (Lexington Studies in Political Communication)

Part of: Lexington Studies in Political Communication (71 books)

★★★★★ 1

by Brenda DeVore Marshall et al.

This book investigates the autobiographical writings of Barbara Jordan, Patricia Schroeder, Geraldine Ferraro, Elizabeth Dole, Wilma Mankiller, Hillary Rodham Clinton, (((Madeleine Albright))), and Christine Todd Whitman. These eight women represent the diversity that permeates the cultural backgrounds, life adventures, and ideologies women bring to the political table. From differences in race, class, and geographic location, to variations in personal and family experiences, religious beliefs, and political ideology, these women illustrate many of the divergent standpoints from which women craft their lives in the United States. Each essay focuses on the autobiographical text as political discourse and therefore, as an appropriate site for the rhetorical construction of a personal and civic self situated within local and national political communities.

The collection examines issues such as the intersection between the “politicization of the private and the personalization of the public” evident in the women's narratives; the description of U.S. politics the women provide in their writings; the ways in which the women's personal stories craft arguments about their political ideologies; the strategies these women leaders employ in navigating the gendered double-binds of politics; and, the manner in which the women's discourse serves to encourage, instruct, and [See full book details](#)

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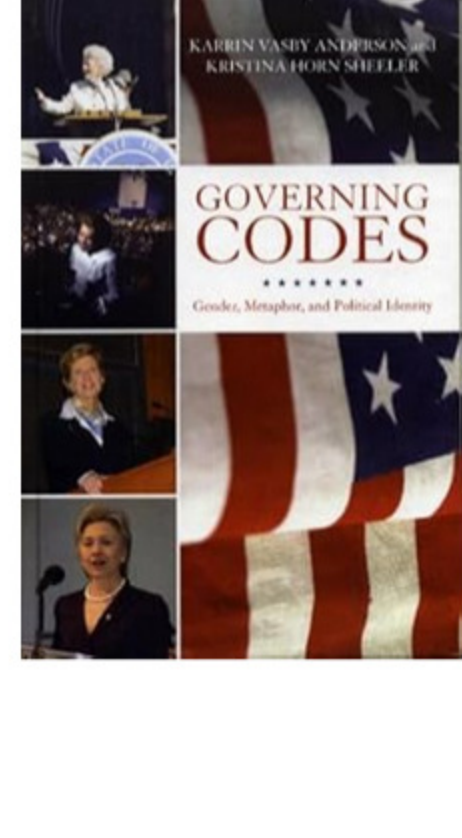
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Governing Codes: Gender, Metaphor, and Political Identity (Lexington Studies in Political Communication)

Part of: Lexington Studies in Political Communication (71 books)

★★★★★ 3

by Karrin Vasby Anderson et al.

Familiar narratives and simplistic stereotypes frame the representation of women in U.S. politics. Pervasive containment rhetorics, such as the distinction between women as mothers and caregivers and men as rational thinkers, create unique hurdles for any woman seeking public office. While these 'governing codes' generally act to constrain female political power, they can also be harnessed as a resource depending on the particular circumstances (e.g., party affiliation, geographic location and personal style). One of these governing codes, the metaphor, is an especially powerful tool in politics today, particularly for women. By examining the political careers of four of the most prominent and influential women in contemporary U.S. politics—Democrats Ann Richards and Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republicans Christine Todd Whitman and Elizabeth Dole—Karrin Vasby Anderson and Kristina Horn Sheeler illustrate how metaphors in public discourse may be both familiar narratives to embrace and boundaries to overturn.

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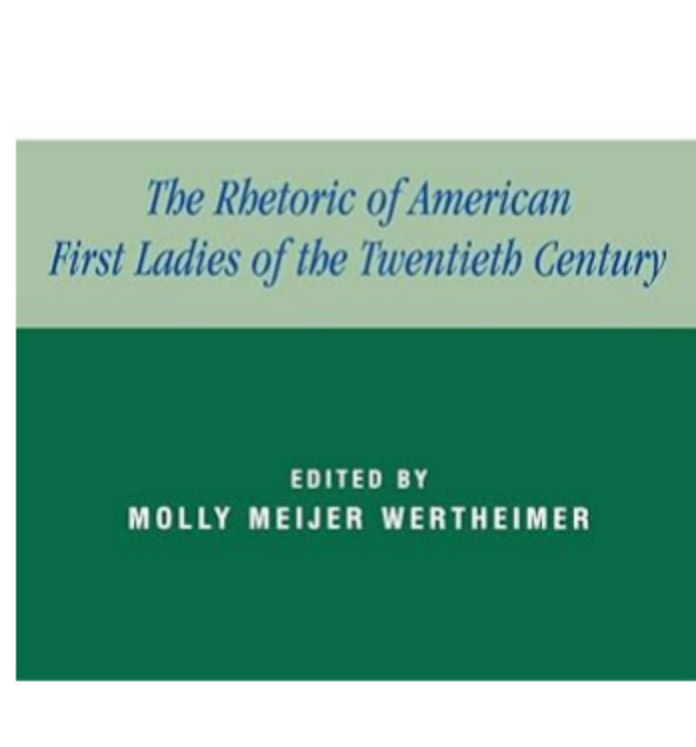
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Inventing a Voice: The Rhetoric of American First Ladies of the Twentieth Century (Communication, Media, and Politics)

★★★★★ 3

by Molly Meijer Wertheimer et al.

Inventing a Voice is a comprehensive work on the lives and communication of twentieth-century first ladies. Using a rhetorical framework, the contributors look at the speaking, writing, media coverage and interaction, and visual rhetoric of American first ladies from Ida Saxton McKinley to Laura Bush. The women's rhetorical devices varied—some practiced a rhetoric without words, while others issued press releases, gave speeches, and met with various constituencies. All used interpersonal or social rhetoric to support their husbands' relationships with world leaders, party officials, boosters, and the public. Featuring an extensive introduction and chapter on the “First Lady as a Site of ‘American Womanhood,’” Wertheimer has gathered a collection that includes the post-White House musings of many first ladies, capturing their reflections on public expectations and perceived restrictions on their communication.

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