Let Us In, Let Us In: A Study of Post-Communist Female Legislative Representation

Rebecca Ray
Illinois Wesleyan University

Kathleen Montgomery, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Ray, Rebecca and Montgomery, Faculty Advisor, Kathleen, "Let Us In, Let Us In: A Study of Post-Communist Female Legislative Representation" (2001). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 1.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2001/oralpres5/1

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
There is no dispute that women are grossly under-represented in the world's legislatures. However, there are several explanations for this under-representation and for the variation that exists between regions and between countries. The prevailing literature points to institutional, developmental, and cultural variables. This study uses the post-communist context in order to control for culture. Given the common experience of state socialism and the re-traditionalization of social values associated with a backlash against directive emancipation, culture cannot be the main factor in determining the wide variation in levels of female legislative representation in the new democracies of East-Central Europe. In testing for both institutional variations and levels of socio-economic development, this study suggests that, while institutions certainly matter, socio-economic development is also an important factor in explaining high levels of female legislative representation.