Acknowledgments

This book has been very, very long in the making. Over more than a decade, I have juggled the demands of significant university administrative positions and the persistent fascination with how the Canadian state has named or refused its citizens. I have been endlessly surprised by the ways in which norms – of gender, sexuality, race, family, and class, and of what it means to be a Canadian – can be stitched together, unpicked, and restitched as we attempt to construct the political community. How might we, as Canadians, or simply as people engaged with others in the task of governance, do better? And more broadly, what does birth-based membership make possible and what does it prevent? These questions have been fodder for conference papers, invited presentations, senior undergraduate and graduate seminars, and myriad conversations with both the suspecting and the unsuspecting. I have benefited from the generosity of many people who offered their encouragement, enthusiasm, and friendship. Support has come in all forms – research assistance, reference compiling, great questions, time, space, funds, wine, dinner, cake, wisdom, love. My gratitude overcomes me.

For most of my professional career, I have worked at or near the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. It has been a rich intellectual community with a capacious and thus generative sense of the discipline. My colleagues and my students have been a source of great inspiration. Thanks, in particular, are owed to Jurgita Kornijenko, Maya Seshia, and Margot Challborn for their excellent research support and to Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Rob Aitken, Isabel Altamirano, Roger Epp, Cressida Heyes, Catherine Kellogg, Fiona Nicoll, Steve Patten, and Lyubov Zhyznomirska for their various engagements with this project. Beyond my former department, Eric Adams, Kim Armstrong, Rainer Bauböck, Davina Bhandar, John Clarke, Carla Cuglietta, Costica Dumbrava, Megan Gaucher, Jon Goldberg-Hiller, Nisha Nath, Peter Nyers, George Pavlich, Tyler Waye, and Ian Quigley have listened to, read, and commented on various
Much of the writing for this project emerged during time spent as a visiting fellow at the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library and as a visiting scholar at the Centre for Law, Gender, and Sexuality at Kent University. Kate Bedford and Emily Grabham were wonderful hosts and intellectual interlocutors during these visits.

I am also very grateful to the people who shared their first-hand citizenship experiences with me. The generosity of Laurence Caron, Don Chapman, Douglas Chute, and Bill Janzen has made this a better book.

Pieces of the analysis, scattered through the introduction, chapters 3, 5, and 7, and the conclusion have appeared in the following journal articles:


I have also presented early iterations of the book in conference papers at the annual meetings of the Canadian Political Science Association, the Western Political Science Association, the International Studies Association, the Law and Society Association, the Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand, the Canadian Law and Society Association, the American Political Science Association, and the European Consortium for Political Research, as well as in seminars at the University of Kent, the University of Hawai‘i, Trent University, and the University of Alberta. I want to thank the conference and panel organizers for these events. Their work is critical to the scholarly endeavour and an essential contribution to knowledge.

Rebecca Cory, Bailey Sousa, and Daniel Quinlan have played critical roles in getting this book across the finish line. Rebecca's patience, writing strategies, and coaching helped me persist. Bailey blocked the time in my calendar and ran interference. Daniel's enthusiasm for the project and careful shepherding of the review and publication process kept the wheels turning. I am also very grateful to the Aid for Scholarly Publishing Program for their contribution to this work and to Matthew Kudelka for his careful and patient copy editing.
In so many ways, family lies at the heart of this project, as a concept, as biographical motivation, and as lived experience. My father came to Canada as a child fleeing religious persecution, and my mother was born to parents who had only recently arrived in Canada under the same conditions. Ultimately, they navigated Canada’s terms of belonging with considerable success, but the stories of the struggles along the way fed an empathy and curiosity in me that has helped fuel this project. I am so very grateful to Eric and Anne for their inspiration, work ethic, and love. My siblings and their families (Lawrence, Dale, Marilyn, Ken, Doris, Ernie, Claire, and Ryan) have politely withstood the rehearsal of many of the book’s arguments, undoubtedly baffled by what was taking me so long, but loving and supporting me along the way. And my stepsons Noah and Alec are the future to whom this work points.

Finally, ultimately, my beloved Curtis. This book could not have happened without his patience, grace, and unwavering faith in me. He held my hand, sometimes my head, and always my heart. This book is for him.
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