SERIES FOREWORD

The politics of marriage (and divorce) is an often-used strategic tool in various social, cultural, economic, and political identity projects as well as in symbolic conflicts between ethnic, national, or religious communities. Despite having multiple strategic applicabilities, pervasiveness in everyday life, and huge significance in performing and managing identities, the politics of marriage is surprisingly underrepresented in both the international book publishing market and the social sciences.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts is a series from Rutgers University Press examining the politics of marriage as a phenomenon embedded into and intensely interacting with much broader social, cultural, economic, and political processes and practices such as globalization; transnationalization; international migration; human trafficking; vertical social mobility; the creation of symbolic boundaries between ethnic populations, nations, religious denominations, or classes; family formation; and struggles for women's and children's rights. The series primarily aims to analyze practices, ideologies, and interpretations related to the politics of marriage and to outline the dynamics and diversity of relatedness—interplay and interdependence, for instance—between the politics of marriage and the broader processes and practices mentioned above. In other words, most books in the series devote special attention to how the politics of marriage and these processes and practices mutually shape and explain each other.

The series concentrates on, among other things, the complex relationships between the politics of marriage and gender, ethnic, national, religious, racial, and class identities globally and examines how these

relationships contribute to the development and management of social, cultural, and political differences, inequalities, and conflicts.

The series seeks to publish single-authored books and edited volumes that develop a gap-filling and thought-provoking critical perspective, that are well-balanced between a high degree of theoretical sophistication and empirical richness, and that cross or rethink disciplinary, methodological, or theoretical boundaries. The thematic scope of the series is intentionally left broad to encourage creative submissions that fit within the perspectives outlined above.

Among the potential topics closely connected with the problem sensitivity of the series are “honor”-based violence; arranged (forced, child, etc.) marriage; transnational marriage markets, migration, and brokerage; intersections of marriage and religion/class/race; the politics of agency and power within marriage; reconfiguration of family: same-sex marriage/union; the politics of love, intimacy, and desire; marriage and multicultural families; the (religious, legal, etc.) politics of divorce; the causes, forms, and consequences of polygamy in contemporary societies; sport marriage; refusing marriage; and so forth.

Learning to Love: Arranged Marriages and the British Indian Diaspora is a nuanced and thought-provoking analysis of the social and cultural dynamics of arranged marriage practices among the British Indian diaspora living in northern England. Drawing on five years of ethnographic research, Raksha Pande convincingly shows that arranged marriages are neither homogenous nor timeless phenomena but increasingly varied and flexible sociocultural practices that are reshaped and reinterpreted by each British Indian family to suit individual or family-level ambitions, aspirations, and identities. Investigating the contemporary lived experience of arranged marriage, *Learning to Love* also demonstrates in a fascinating way why arranged marriages are inextricably connected to negotiating citizenship and (trans)national belonging and how arranged marriage practices have been continuously transformed in order to contribute to the creation of a prized narrative of collective identity, which portrays the British Indian diaspora as “modern and progressive migrants.” In this illuminating book, Pande not only illustrates how love and romance may play an important role in partner selection, but also brilliantly highlights the patterns and dynamics

of interpersonal and affective negotiations concerning marriage—with a special focus on intergenerational cooperation and conflict management.

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