



# **Women, Power, and Ethnicity: Working Toward Reciprocal Empowerment (Haworth Innovations in Feminist Studies)**

*Patricia S.E. Darlington, Becky Michele Mulvaney*

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Powerful women aren't just men walking around in dresses! As women continue to assume positions of social leadership in increasing numbers, the dynamics of the social construction of power need to be examined. Have women adopted traditionally male patterns of behavior in an effort to gain and maintain power in business, industry, politics, academics, etc.? And if not, what kind of power are women practicing? The authors of *Women, Power, and Ethnicity: Working Toward Reciprocal Empowerment* endeavored to find out by conducting a research study on how women from various racial and ethnic backgrounds compare and contrast the attributes associated with existing power paradigms (traditional, empowerment, personal authority) with an alternate model of power--reciprocal empowerment. Reciprocal empowerment is a discursive and behavioral style of interaction grounded in reciprocity initiated by people who feel a sense of personal authority. Reciprocal empowerment enables people with mutual self-interests to rise above obstacles based on social and political structures and to use personal authority to discuss and act on issues openly and honestly in order to effect change. Using a qualitative methodology, *Women, Power, and Ethnicity* includes the results of surveys and interviews with women from seven different ethnic groups in the United States to determine if the concept of reciprocal empowerment resonates with them. The answer: Yes! *Women, Power, and Ethnicity* is organized by surveys and interview findings on women from seven cultural groups living in the United States (African, Asian, Caribbean, European, Latin, Middle Eastern, Native American). Each chapter includes:

- analyses of ethnographic findings, surveys, and interviews
- concise historical information
- effects of immigration, where applicable
- tables and diagrams
- direct quotes
- and much more!

*Women, Power, and Ethnicity* examines women's attitudes toward power in several social forums--home, job, religion, politics, and society in general. The book is an essential resource for teachers and students of communication studies, women studies, gender studies, ethnic studies, and social sciences.

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