

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE6054

## Pateman, Carole

(1940 - )

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**Born** 19401211, Maresfield Sussex United Kingdom

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**Occupation** Academic, Political scientist

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### Summary

Professor Carole Pateman is a British-born political scientist and academic who is internationally renowned for her contribution to feminist political theory and democratic theory. Carole taught in Australia from 1972 to 1990, during which time she played a central role in introducing feminist critique to Australian political science. In 1979, she and Marian Sawer co-founded the Women's Caucus of the Australasian Political Studies Association (APSA) to improve the status of women in the profession of political science and make women visible in the political system.

## Details

Carole Pateman was born in Sussex in south-eastern England to Beatrice Kate (nee Horscroft) and Ronald Bennett, who had both left school at 14, but encouraged their daughter's education. At the age of 11 Pateman passed the Eleven Plus examination required for entry to the academically-selective Lewes County Grammar School for Girls, which she left at 16. She worked in clerical positions for several years before attending Ruskin College, an independent adult educational institution in Oxford for working class students. From Ruskin, Pateman won entry to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University, where she studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (1967) and then a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) (1971).

In 1972 Pateman moved to Australia where she was Lecturer (1972-75), then Senior Lecturer (1976-79), in the Department of Government at the University of Sydney, and Visiting Fellow, Department of Political Science, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (1975). From 1980 to 1989 she was a Reader in Government at the University of Sydney in addition to taking a series of visiting positions at Stanford University, Princeton University, and the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

When Pateman arrived in Australia she had an established international reputation in political science through the publication of her book *Participation and Democratic Theory* (1970) based on her DPhil thesis. Since published in four languages in addition to English editions, the book promotes a participatory vision of democracy and criticises the theory of democratic elitism. Pateman argued that elitist theories by the likes of Schumpeter, Berelson, Sartori, Dahl and Eckstein are based on an inadequate understanding of the early writings of democratic theory and that much sociological evidence has been ignored. The book is considered a major contribution to political theory, along with *The Problem of Political Obligation: A Critical Analysis of Liberal Theory* (1979, 1985), and *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, Feminism, and Political Theory* (1989).

Her 1988 book, *The Sexual Contract*, challenged the classical idea of a social contract whereby the power of the state rested on the consent of its citizens. In her powerful revisioning, she argued that hidden in the social contract was a sexual contract. While patriarchal power was overthrown in the public realm and civil society was created, the fraternal contract upheld the power of men over women in the private realm. Pateman's critique of liberal social contract theory has been credited with bringing feminism into mainstream political theory. The American Political Science Association awarded Pateman the Benjamin Lippincott Award for the book in 2005, and it has since been translated into 10 languages. In total, Pateman has written, co-written and edited 17 books.

Pateman combined her theoretical work with a commitment to a more inclusive political science discipline, better able to interpret the gendered nature of politics. In 1979 she co-founded the Women's Caucus of the Australasian Political Studies Association (APSA) with Marian Sawer. In 1980, she was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and in 1981 she delivered a landmark presidential address to APSA about the failure of the discipline to construct the status of women as a political problem.

Pateman continued to publish works challenging the masculinist tradition of political theory and despite being the most cited political science academic in Australia by a wide margin, her applications for chairs at Australian universities were unsuccessful and in 1990 she moved to the United States of America to take up the role of Professor of Political Science at University of California, Los Angeles and was elevated to the rank of Distinguished Professor in 1993. From 1993 to 2000 she was also Adjunct Professor at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; and from 2006 to 2008 Research Professor at Cardiff University in the United Kingdom.

Professor Pateman has held fellowships at research institutes, including Stanford, Princeton, and Uppsala and has played a leading role in making the professional organisations of the political science discipline more women-friendly. She became president of the Australasian Political Studies Association in 1980 and in 1985 was elected as Australian nominee to the Executive of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). In 1991, she became the first woman elected President of IPSA and helped ensure the increased participation of women. In 2010 she was elected president of the American Political Science Association, regarded as the flagship of the discipline.

Her scholarship has been recognized with many prestigious honours and awards, including in 2012 the Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science, known as the 'Nobel Prize for Political Science' (2012). She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the British Academy.

In honour of Carole's contribution to political science in Australia, APSA presents the biennial Carole Pateman Gender and Politics prize for the best book on gender and politics published by an APSA member.

Following many years living in the United States, Professor Pateman moved back to the United Kingdom in 2017 and has now retired to Eastbourne.

*This entry was sponsored by a generous donation from the late Dr Thelma Hunter.*

## Events

### **2015 - 2015**

Fellow, Learned Society of Wales

### **2013 - 2013**

UK Political Studies Association Special Recognition Award

### **2012 - 2012**

Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science

### **2010 -**

Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences, UK

### **2007 -**

Fellow, British Academy

### **2006 - 2006**

DSocSci Honoris Causa, Helsinki University

### **2005 - 2005**

DLitt Honoris Causa, National University of Ireland

### **2004 - 2004**

UK Political Studies Association, Lifetime Achievement Award

### **1998 - 1998**

DLitt Honoris Causa, Australian National University

### **1996 -**

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

### **1993 - 1994**

Guggenheim Fellow

### **1988 - 1989**

Kerstin Hesselgren Professor, Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

### **1980 -**

Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences in Australia

### **1986 - 1987**

Member, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

### **1984 - 1985**

Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford

### **1980 -**

Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences in Australia

### **1996 -**

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

### **2007 -**

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**Published resources****Edited Book**

Australian Women and the Political System, Simms, Marian, 1984

Who's Who in Australia 1996, Sharpe, Neill (Researcher), 1995

**Book**

A Woman's Place: Women and Politics in Australia, Sawer, Marian and Simms, Marian, 1993

Participation and Democratic Theory, Pateman, Carole, 1970

The Problem of Political Obligation: A Critique of Liberal Theory, Pateman, Carole, 1985

The Sexual Contract, Pateman, Carole, 1988

**Resource Section**

Political Science, Grey, Madeline, 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0178b.htm>

Fellows in the Australian Learned Academies, 1954-2010, Grimshaw, Patricia and Francis, Rosemary, 2015,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0451b.htm>

**Journal Article**

The Impact of Feminist Scholarship on Australian Political Science, Sawer, Marian, 2004

**Resource**

Carole Pateman winner of the Johan Skytte Prize 2012, Uppsala Universitet, Medfarm Play, 2012,  
<http://media.medfarm.uu.se/play/video/2931>

Department History, Department of Government and International Relations, 2014,  
[http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government\\_international\\_relations/about/history.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government_international_relations/about/history.shtml)

**Site Exhibition**

Women Who Caucus: Feminist Political Scientists, 2017,  
<http://womenaustralia.info/exhib/caucus/>

**Report**

IPSA Gender Monitoring Report, Matonyte, Irmina, Marian Sawer, Mathieu St-Laurent, 2011,  
[https://www.ipsa.org/sites/default/files/gender\\_report.pdf](https://www.ipsa.org/sites/default/files/gender_report.pdf)

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection**

[Records of the Australasian Political Studies Association, 1956-1996 \[manuscript\]](#)

### **Australian National University Archives**

[Pateman, C](#)

[Pateman, C](#)

### **Author Details**

Niki Francis and Marian Sawyer

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## Digital resources



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