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Endorsing and Committing to Women's Human Rights (abstract)

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The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2015 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

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Research Panel: Human Rights Attitudes in a World Society

Presenters: Margaret Waltz, Case Western Reserve University; K. Russell Shekha, Denison University; Brian K. Gran, Case Western Reserve University

Title: Endorsing and Committing to Women's Human Rights

Abstract: This study identifies determinants of endorsement of and commitment to women's economic and political rights compared to men's. Studying an international sample of diverse nations and regions through time-series modeling of two recent waves of the Worlds Values Survey, we compare static, psychological, and dynamic explanations of human rights attitudes. This study suggests the importance of contested, dynamic identities across geographical space and over time for understanding determinants of attitudes towards the rights of women in an international system where universal human rights are institutionalized at ever greater levels.

Keywords: human rights attitudes, human rights support, world society, citizenship, women's rights, minority rights

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Brian K. Gran is an associate professor of Sociology and Law on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University. A former lawyer, Gran's sociological research focuses on human rights and institutions that support and hinder their enforcement, with a particular interest in whether law can intervene into private spheres. With David Brunsmma and Keri Iyall Smith, he edited *The Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*, which received the Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award Honorable Mention. A co-founder of the ASA Human Rights section, Gran serves on the Steering Committee and Council of the Science and Human Rights Project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For his research on independent children's rights institutions, Gran has enjoyed support as a Visiting Fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation and as a Fulbright Scholar to Iceland. He serves as co-editor of the journal, *Societies Without Borders*.

K. Russell Shekha is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. His teaching and research interests are in human rights, the welfare state, Latin America, global justice, and quantitative methods. His current research focuses on the impacts of universal human rights on welfare state spending and inequality in Latin America and the determinants of attitudes towards human rights and welfare states in international samples. He serves as the current Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of the American Sociological Association's Section on Human Rights.

Margaret Waltz is a doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department at Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests are in social inequality, human rights, gender, and medical sociology. Her current research focuses on how medical waiting rooms serve as sites where inequalities are reproduced. She serves as managing editor of the journal, *Societies Without Borders*.