

# Journal of Latin American Studies

<http://journals.cambridge.org/LAS>

Additional services for *Journal of Latin American Studies*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)



---

**Gregory Hammond, *The Women's Suffrage Movement and Feminism in Argentina from Roca to Perón* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2011), pp. xi+267, \ \$28.95; £18.61, pb.**

CECILIA TOSSOUNIAN

Journal of Latin American Studies / Volume 46 / Issue 01 / February 2014, pp 217 - 218  
DOI: 10.1017/S0022216X13001776, Published online: 19 February 2014

**Link to this article:** [http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract\\_S0022216X13001776](http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0022216X13001776)

**How to cite this article:**

CECILIA TOSSOUNIAN (2014). Review of H. D. Adamson 'VARIATION THEORY AND SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION' Journal of Latin American Studies, 46, pp 217-218 doi:10.1017/S0022216X13001776

**Request Permissions :** [Click here](#)

*J. Lat. Amer. Stud.* 46 (2014). doi:10.1017/S0022216X13001776

Gregory Hammond, *The Women's Suffrage Movement and Feminism in Argentina from Roca to Perón* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2011), pp. xi + 267, \$28.95; £18.61, pb.

Gregory Hammond's book studies the development of the suffrage movement in Argentina from its inception in the late nineteenth century until women's political participation became a reality under Peronism. Guided by the question of the timing of female suffrage – that is, why women's equal participation in the political realm arrived under the Peronist regime – this study examines not only the growth of the feminist movement but also its relationship with the political scene, unfolding 50 years of activism, its fragmentation and its reconsolidation along political and ideological lines.

In the introduction, the author places the Argentine case in the context of other Latin American populist regimes that also supported women's rights. If, as the author states, the women's rights movement generally had to wait for a powerful political faction that collaborated with it to make suffrage a reality, the Argentine case becomes peculiar, as instead of cooperation, there was an opposition between Peronists willing to grant the vote and the suffrage movement advocating for this right. This apparent contradiction guides the book's argumentation, which follows a chronological line, opening with three chapters that study the emergence and expansion of the feminist movement and concluding with two chapters devoted to discussing its relationship to Peronism.

Hammond analyses the pre-Peronist feminist movement, focusing on the ideological differences between groups. While civil equality was practically a common claim in the first decade of the twentieth century, women's political rights were one of the reasons for disagreement between anarchist, socialist, radical, independent and conservative feminists, a factor that in turn weakened the claim for female political equality. However, as Hammond shows, a societal consensus about granting suffrage started to grow especially after the 1926 civil code reform, which established women's legal equality with men. Chapter 3 examines the feminist movement at its peak, paying special attention to the implementation, in 1928, of the suffrage law in the province of San Juan. In the most original chapter of the book, the author explores the unresearched topic of the enfranchisement of women in San Juan and its consequences at the national level, focusing on the Cantonista Party, an independent faction of the Radical Party that was responsible for the suffrage legislation, in order to explain the success in granting women political rights. However, the coup of 1930 and the conservative governments that followed let projects of national suffrage languish, signalling the defeat of the women's movement's political goal.

In explaining the reasons for the feminist movement's failure to achieve the women's vote before Peronism, the author not only points to the political atmosphere of the *década infame*, but more specifically stresses the early and persistent fragmentation of the women's movement along partisan lines and, consequently, its incapacity to attract working-class women to its cause in the absence of a coherent message regarding women's enfranchisement. According to the author, these factors were only reversed when Perón came to power, explaining Peronism's success where feminists failed. The book's final two chapters deal precisely with the complex relationship between Peronism, feminism and women's political mobilisation.

In 1947, Congress approved the suffrage legislation, granting women political rights. In the elections of 1951, and with the help of the newly created Peronist

Women's Party, strictly controlled by Evita Perón, Peronism won the elections, and women not only voted for the first time in Argentine history but were also elected for the first time to Congress. In an ironic twist, feminists, who had been advocating for these rights for five decades, withdrew their support for the suffrage law on the basis of their opposition to the Peronist government. As Hammond points out, the division between the suffragists and Peronists lay on the one hand with party politics, as feminists were all members of parties that opposed Peronism from its beginnings. On the other hand, the antagonism also emerged from Perón's social division between the people and 'the oligarchs', with suffragists being considered among the latter and consequently as enemies of the *descamisados*. Ultimately, it was Peronism's allure among the working classes, with Perón providing for material benefits while Evita created a personal and solid bond with working-class women, that explains, according to Hammond, the triumph of Peronism over feminism on the issue of engendering extensive support for political rights. Hammond argues that eventually, while the emergence of a strong leader such as Perón, who co-opted the feminist cause and discourse, explicates the timing of suffrage in Argentina, it is the existence of suffrage advocates who had already paved the way for such a claim that explains Peronism's embrace of the cause in the first place.

This book will appeal to both students and specialists working on women and Latin American social and political history. Although feminism in Argentina is a well-research topic, this work provides a good synthesis of the history of the suffrage movement and, specifically, of its conflictive relationship with Peronism. Political participation, however, was one of the many claims of the women's movement, and the reader would at times expect a deeper study of feminist goals that were intrinsically bonded to suffrage, such as efforts to promote public health and education. Overall, Hammond's study is very effective in analysing the relationship between political movements and suffragist organisations, providing a skilful examination of the reasons behind granting female political rights. As such, it is a welcome contribution to Argentine women's history.

*Free University of Berlin*

CECILIA TOSSOUNIAN

*J. Lat. Amer. Stud.* 46 (2014). doi:10.1017/S0022216X13001788

Elana Shever, *Resources for Reform: Oil and Neoliberalism in Argentina* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2012), pp. xiii + 231, \$70.00 hb, \$22.95 pb and e-book.

In April 2012, Argentine president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner announced the expropriation of the assets of the Spanish oil multinational Repsol owned in the Argentine firm Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales (YPF). This move shocked the international business community and caused a diplomatic row between Argentina and Spain, while left-wing politicians in other Latin American countries celebrated the Argentine government's action. The Argentine government referred to the expropriation as the 'recovery' of Argentine oil resources, denoting the fact that from 1922 (the year in which YPF was established) until its privatisation in 1993 by President Carlos Menem, YPF had been a state-owned enterprise. YPF was not just one more of the many Latin American state-owned enterprises, however. It was the first vertically integrated state-owned company in the non-communist world, and its privatisation was one of the largest operations of its kind in history. This means that