

**Politics Closer to Home: Decentralization and Women's Empowerment Worldwide  
(book manuscript)**

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Do women participate in greater numbers, and wield more political power when politics is dispersed across a nation rather than concentrated in a nation's capital city?

This book looks at why international organizations and country leaders are pushing more political decisions to the local level--and the conditions under which women are poised to take leadership roles in politics closer to home.

In Chapter Six of the book (to be presented Nov. 2), I examine the specific case of decentralization in Pakistan. Using the "triangle of empowerment" I examine women's representation in three major institutional spheres: provincial legislatures, provincial agencies of gender equality, and women's groups in civil society. I assess the strength of women in each sphere separately, but also interactively. Drawing on Tiebout's notion that localities "match" local needs better, I use original survey data to find out whether provincial agencies of gender equality are more responsive than their national counterpart to the policy priorities of women's groups in their locale.