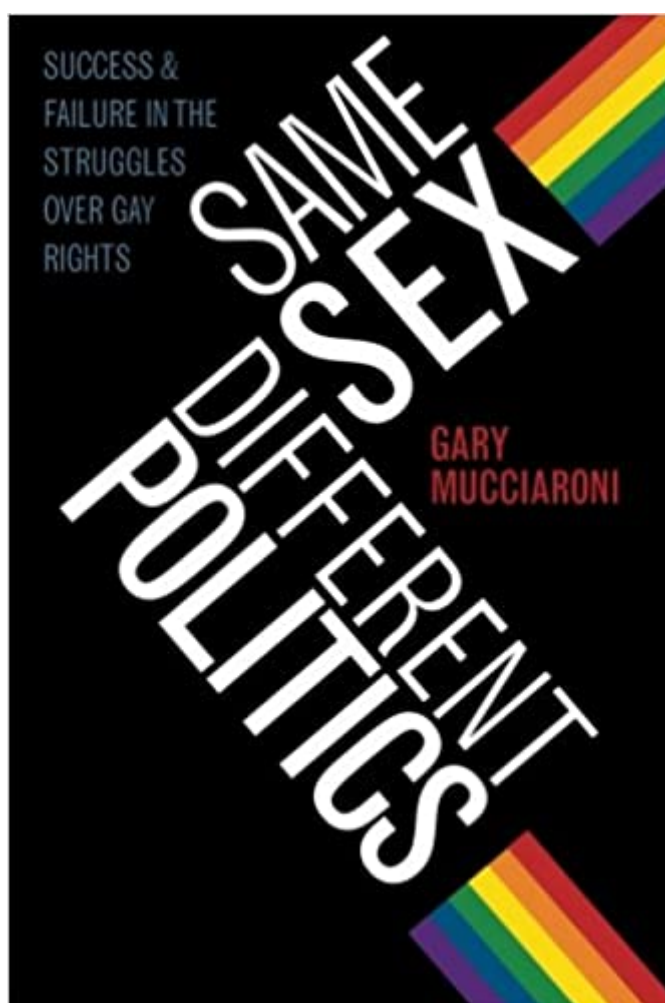


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# Same Sex, Different Politics: Success And Failure In The Struggles Over Gay Rights (Chicago Studies In American Politics)



## Synopsis

Why is it so much harder for American same-sex couples to get married than it is for them to adopt children? And why does our military prevent gays from serving openly even though jurisdictions nationwide continue to render such discrimination illegal? Illuminating the conditions that engender these contradictory policies, *Same Sex, Different Politics* explains why gay rights advocates have achieved dramatically different levels of success from one policy area to another. The first book to compare results across a wide range of gay rights struggles, this volume explores debates over laws governing military service, homosexual conduct, adoption, marriage and partner recognition, hate crimes, and civil rights. It reveals that in each area, the gay rights movement's achievements depend both on Americans' perceptions of its demands and on the political venue in which the conflict plays out. Adoption policy, for example, generally takes shape in a decentralized system of courts that enables couples to target sympathetic judges, while fights for gay marriage generally culminate in legislation or ballot referenda against which it is easier to mount opposition. Brilliantly synthesizing all the factors that contribute to each kind of outcome, *Same Sex, Different Politics* establishes a new framework for understanding the trajectory of a movement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Same Sex, Different Politics is a rigorous and well-written analysis of the contemporary lesbian and gay movements in light of the intersection of public opinion, policy, and political institutions. Most impressive of all is Gary Mucciaroni's ability to connect his precise analyses with an engaging set of

practical recommendations for policy and political organizing. There is nothing else like this book." - Craig A. Rimmerman, coeditor of *The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage*

Gary Mucciaroni is professor of political science at Temple University and a coauthor of *Deliberative Choices*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

Great book for research purposes, and hopefully soon a very good book for historical references, once DADT is repealed and more and more states legalize gay marriage and adoption. This book also opens your eyes to many other gay rights issues one might not have thought of besides the obvious. It is, however, a quite old book in this ever-changing issue, so the data, although properly dated, is almost irrelevant. It worked well for when I wrote a paper on the subject 2 years ago.:)

This is a very good study that doesn't show biased. The only thing is that it is slightly outdated. I STILL HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT THOUGH!!

Given the date of publication and what has happened in this arena since 2008 this book needs updating.

Why are some struggles for gay rights more successful than others? Beginning with the observation that the gay rights' "movements public policy fortunes...lie at the nexus of public opinion and political institutions," Gary Mucciaroni (Temple University) presents a masterful study of the different policy outcomes of challenges to laws on military service, sodomy, adoption, marriage and partner recognition, hate crimes, and civil rights. Mucciaroni's rigorous exposition shows why understanding the gay rights movement's successes and failures requires separating out the strands of its policy agenda: not only do these issues vary in their level of public disapproval or support, policymaking on these issues takes place in very different institutional settings. Mucciaroni, the author with Paul J. Quirk of *Deliberative Choices*, lays out his argument in accessible and well-written prose. Like Miriam Smith's *Political Institutions and Lesbian and Gay Rights in the United States and Canada*, *Political Institutions and Lesbian and Gay Rights in the United States and Canada*, *Same Sex, Different Politics* shows why those interested in the history and trajectory of the lesbian and gay rights movement should also study the political institutions in which its challenges are adjudicated.

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