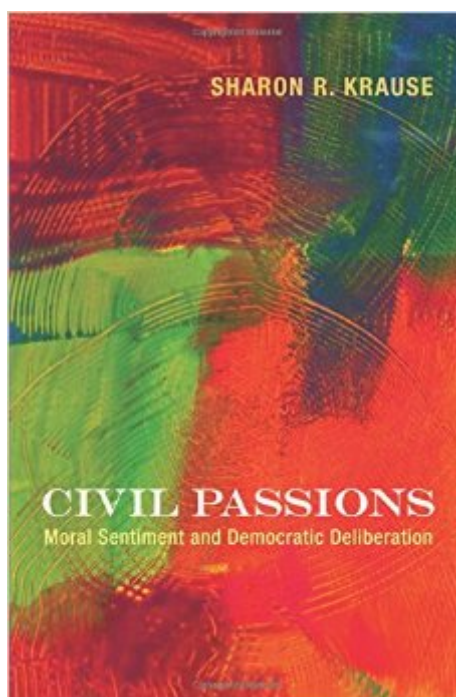


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Civil Passions: Moral Sentiment And Democratic Deliberation



Synopsis

Must we put passions aside when we deliberate about justice? Can we do so? The dominant views of deliberation rightly emphasize the importance of impartiality as a cornerstone of fair decision making, but they wrongly assume that impartiality means being disengaged and passionless. In *Civil Passions*, Sharon Krause argues that moral and political deliberation must incorporate passions, even as she insists on the value of impartiality. Drawing on resources ranging from Hume's theory of moral sentiment to recent findings in neuroscience, *Civil Passions* breaks new ground by providing a systematic account of how passions can generate an impartial standpoint that yields binding and compelling conclusions in politics. Krause shows that the path to genuinely impartial justice in the public sphere--and ultimately to social change and political reform--runs through moral sentiment properly construed. This new account of affective but impartial judgment calls for a politics of liberal rights and democratic contestation, and it requires us to reconceive the meaning of public reason, the nature of sound deliberation, and the authority of law. By illuminating how impartiality feels, *Civil Passions* offers not only a truer account of how we deliberate about justice, but one that promises to engage citizens more effectively in acting for justice.

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Customer Reviews

"Civil Passions" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Krause's book interview ran here as cover feature on June 19, 2009.

Our new reality is framed by instant knowledge, which subverts ethical considerations. We need guidance from our best thinkers to progress toward a safer, better world, and we are likely actually running out of time. Krause cares, and communicates. I hope her new book gains the wide audience it deserves, for all our sakes.

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