

Kim Rubenstein: Mandating Equal Power: Form and Substance in the Australian Constitution

In this paper, Professor Rubenstein develops a proposal she first placed in the public domain at the Women's Constitutional Convention in 1998 at Parliament House in Canberra. She returned to the proposal in her 2008 Dymphna Clark lecture - From Suffrage to Citizenship: A Republic of Equals. The proposal aims to ensure that women have real access to the exercise of power in Australian public life. This paper explores the ways in which the Constitution could be altered to better effect equal access to public power and reflects upon the value of this aim when thinking about women's rights as human rights.