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Updated on 13 December 2016

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## Women, Personal Laws and the Changing Juridical Practice (/journal/2000/15/book-reviews/women-personal-laws-and-changing-juridical-practice.html)

*Law and Gender Inequality: The Politics of Women's Rights in India* by *Flavia Agnes*; Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1999; pp 250, Rs 495.

Flavia Agnes' work on law and gender inequality interweaves numerous perspectives into a meaningful whole. The author has worked in the field of women and law since the early 1980s, beginning with the second phase of the Indian women's movement and has written extensively on the working of Indian law – on the ground, in the courts and in the legislature. The present work takes all three perspectives and adds a fourth – the historical.

It has been difficult to write the review because of the simplicity of the argument. There is a single-minded focus on women and their access to property and economic support structures. This access is examined in exhaustive detail in the various systems of family law and their juridical avatars. To give some idea of the scope and exhaustiveness of the book one has to almost repeat the whole story and the great deal of information she has recorded.

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