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ALERTA HEMEROGRÁFICA

No. 333
ENERO 2023



Título: *Crisis and Gender in Legislative-Executive Relations.*

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Revista: Politics & Gender, Volume 18, Number 4, December 2022, 1-7pp.

Editorial: Cambridge University Press.

ISSNe: 1743-9248

Versión electrónica: <https://bit.ly/3WFh0M8>

Nota: Disponible para consulta en los servicios las Bases de Datos Institucionales para la Cámara de Diputados.

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University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom.

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EXTRACT:

The interaction of the legislative and executive is gendered in nature. Gender shapes what actors in these two institutions demand from each other. This pattern is visible, for instance, in the distinct policy priorities of women and men in parliament (e.g., Allen and Childs 2019; Bäck and Debus 2019; Lowande, Ritchie, and Lauterbach 2019) and in the ways that women engage and oversee related government initiatives. At the same time, gender influences the strengths and weaknesses that actors in the legislature and executive ascribe to each other and, hence, their mutual assessment. Members of parliament (MPs) and party gatekeepers, for instance, tend to favor men for the most influential and well-resourced portfolios, since they believe that masculine traits are necessary or suitable to succeed in governmental positions, and membership in men-dominated political networks remains an important route to qualify for ministerial office (see, e.g., Annesley, Beckwith, and Franceschet 2019; Krook and O'Brien 2012). Change in these dynamics is scarce or occurs only gradually, meaning that the ways in which executive-legislative interactions are gendered are usually stable.

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