Jean Reith Schroedel

Jean Reith Schroedel earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Washington in 1981 and a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990. Schroedel taught two years as an assistant professor at Yale University prior to accepting an appointment at CGU in 1991. In 1995 she was promoted to associate professor with tenure and in 2001 was promoted to professor in the Department of Politics and Policy. She also serves as the Director of the Applied Women’s Studies Program. Her research and teaching interests encompass a wide range of topics; most of which are linked by a common thread—to what extent are the concerns of traditionally under-represented groups addressed by the political system within the United States. Schroedel’s research is supported by grants from major foundations, such as the Haynes Foundation, Brazil Foundation, Irvine Foundation, Fletcher Jones Foundation and Social Science Faculty Fund. Schroedel has a strong record of doing collaborative research with graduate students. Since coming to CGU, she has jointly published articles with more than twenty graduate students.

Midway through graduate school, Schroedel published her first book, _Alone in a Crowd_ (1983); a study of women employed in non-traditional blue collar occupations. This research was a direct outgrowth of her experiences as a garment worker, bus driver and machinist attending college. Her second book, _Congress, the President, and Policymaking: Analysis_ (1994), is a longitudinal analysis of the shifting roles of Congress and the presidency in the policymaking process and the extent to which the Constitution acts as a check against presidential encroachment into the legislative arena. A portion of this research was awarded the Pi Sigma Alpha Prize by the Western Political Science Association in 1992. Schroedel is most well known for her third book, _Is the Fetus a Person: A Comparison of Policy in Fifty States_ (2000), an analysis of the three major fetal policy issues (abortion, pre-viability care for pregnant women, and third party fetal killings). She found that harmful actions against women (i.e., abortion and prenatal drug exposure) are far more likely to be crimes, whereas harmful actions committed by men (i.e., acts of violence that result in fetal deaths and injuries). These findings have been written about in most of the major newspapers across the country and has been cited in an amicus curiae Supreme Court brief. In 2001 the American Political Science Association awarded her the prestigious Victoria Schuck Prize for a book that has significantly advanced the study of women’s representation and gender equity in politics.