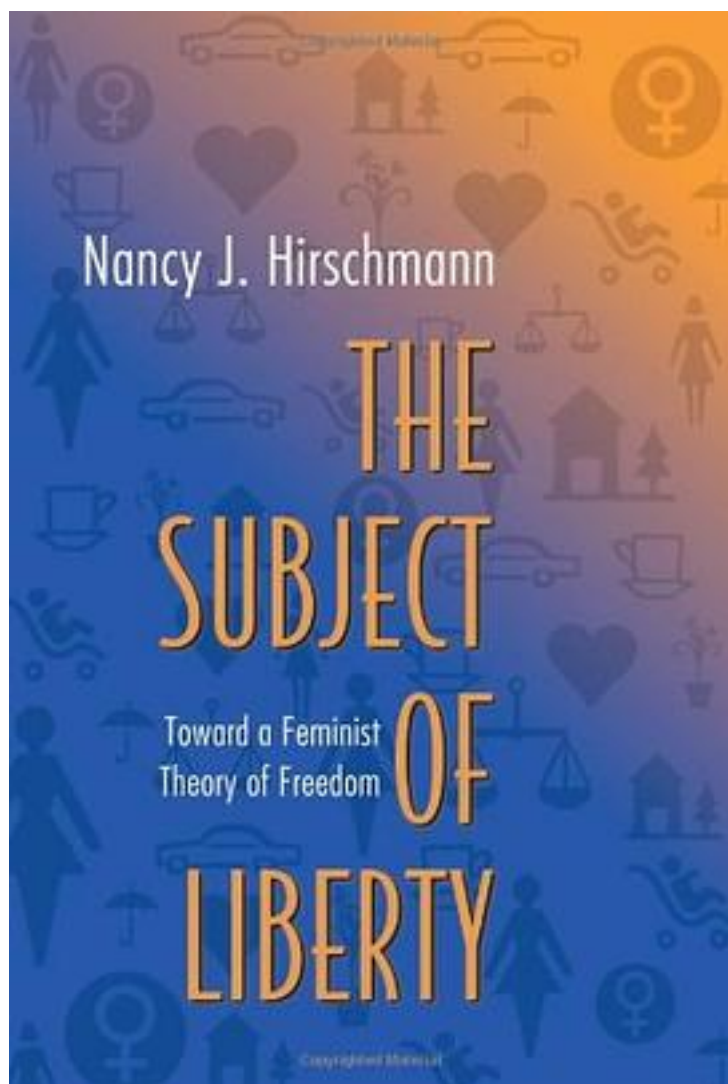


The Subject of Liberty



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著者:Nancy J. Hirschmann

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This book reconsiders the dominant Western understandings of freedom through the lens of women's real-life experiences of domestic violence, welfare, and Islamic veiling. Nancy Hirschmann argues that the typical approach to freedom found in political philosophy severely reduces the concept's complexity, which is more fully revealed by taking such practical issues into account. Hirschmann begins by arguing that the dominant Western understanding of freedom does not provide a conceptual vocabulary for accurately characterizing women's experiences. Often, free choice is assumed when women are in fact coerced - as when a battered woman who stays with her abuser out of fear or economic necessity is said to make this choice because it must not be so bad - and coercion is assumed when free choices are made - such as when Westerners assume that all veiled women are oppressed, even though many Islamic women view veiling as an important symbol of cultural identity. Understanding the contexts in which choices arise and are made is central to understanding that freedom is socially constructed through systems of power such as patriarchy, capitalism, and race privilege. Social norms, practices, and language set the conditions within which choices are made, determine what options are available, and shape our individual subjectivity, desires, and self-understandings. Attending to the ways in which contexts construct us as 'subjects' of liberty, Hirschmann argues, provides a firmer empirical and theoretical footing for understanding what freedom means and entails politically, intellectually, and socially.

作者介绍:

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标签

政治哲学

女性主义

哲学

PoliticalPhilosophy

评论

从女性主义出发的确容易看到自由在社会情境中纠纠葛葛的各方面。其实很值得学习的是她展开论述的方法，提出经验的paradox，review自由的积极与消极的两路传统，并提出沟通两者的社会建构的自由。无论是这个理论本身还是提出理论的路径，看上去都挺有社会学的意思～

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书评

The social Construction of Freedom in Historical Perspective

我的那种观点，即认为社会建构对于自由概念来说是非常基本的，在当代积极自由的理论中都并非是自明的话，那么声称社会建构是那些典型人物（的理论）（freedom theorists）中的关键要素就更...

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