

# How **RADICAL** were the women suffragists?

Dr. Linda Steiner

Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Kresge Auditorium (Purdy-Kresge Library)



Women's suffrage tent at the 1912 Michigan State Fair. (Source: MSU Libraries)

Michigan became one of the first three states to ratify the Constitutional amendment giving US women the right to vote (Wisconsin and Illinois were the other two) on June 10, 1919. The centennial of enfranchisement of women in 2019 is an opportune time to assess the aims, strategies, and success of the women's suffrage movement. What were suffrage activists really trying to achieve—and for whom were they trying to achieve it? What strategies and tactics did women suffragists develop over their 75 years of fighting for the right to vote? And, looking back, to what extent should women suffragists be considered feminist in the best sense of the word? Were they radical feminists?

Linda Steiner is a Professor in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. She has written many journal articles and book chapters about the importance of women's suffrage periodicals to the emergence, maintenance and ultimate success of the movement. Her co-edited book *Front Pages, Front Lines: Media and the Fight for Women's Suffrage* will appear in 2020, i.e., 100 years after the Nineteenth Amendment became law



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