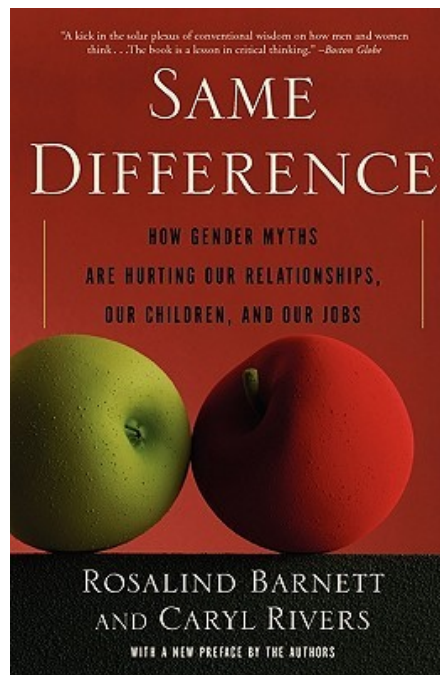




Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children, and Our Jobs

Rosalind C. Barnett , Caryl Rivers

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From respected academics like Carol Gilligan to pop-psych gurus like John Gray, and even the controversial Harvard President Lawrence Summers, the message has long been the same: Men and women are fundamentally different, and trying to bridge the gender gap can only lead to grief. But as the *New York Times Book Review* raved, Barnett and Rivers "debunk these theories in a no-nonsense way, offering a refreshingly direct (i.e. unashamedly judgmental) critique of traditional parental roles, tututting at the couples they interviewed who cling to stereotyped ideas of the family." "Blending case histories, new research and thoughtful analysis, the writers describe the divide between the sexes as a crevice, not a chasm. The good news: We're all a lot more flexible than the gender clichés let on." -*Psychology Today*

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From Reader Review Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children, and Our Jobs for online ebook

Ryan Mishap says

Well-presented, well-argued, and with not only a solid backing of research but common sense notions of equality. Though almost ten years old, this is still a cogent rebuttal to those who argue (often without good evidence) that men and women have differently "wired" brains and use this to justify continued oppression, discrimination, second class status, and narrow definitions of gender. The authors do a great job of presenting their case through empirical studies, meta-analysis, citation, and personal cases. There's also a focus on how narrow gender roles are detrimental for men as well as women.

Highly recommended in tandem with "Delusions of Gender."

Sheila says

They should have titled this book "All The Resources You Need To Hate Men". Written by two seemingly random women who pull quote after quote from other peoples research and try to use it to prove that men and women are exactly the same and should be treated exactly the same. I expected to feel empowered after reading this book, I just want to climb into a hole and wait out the supposed feminist apocalypse we're in. Ring your bells boys "THE WOMEN ARE COMING!!!"

Morgan Lewis says

If I could go on another mission, it would be for this book. They tear apart gender myths that I didn't even realize I bought into. It had me questioning my own biases about gender, and equipped me for reading sensationalized "research" about gender roles in the future. If you want to strengthen the science/research side of your feminism, ReAd ThIs ImMeDiAtEIY!!!

Doublezerodomino says

Problematic, heteronormative; many notes taken in the margins about questionable research. Yet to be finished.

Stacie Tess says

I was required to read this book for a class, but I found myself entranced by the subject matter. It is interesting to see how the ideas that we have about gender really affect the way in which we treat others and how we relate to others in general.

Corey Wrenn says

This was a fascinating exploration into the psychology and sociology of gender and the politics of science and ideology. The focus on sound research methods and the power of culture, media, and agendas to convince an entire society that "Women are from Venus; Men are from Mars" is disturbing and compelling. This was a well researched and well argued book that was easy to understand, but very dry at times and repetitive. I enjoyed the peppering of "case study" anecdotes to drive home the serious implications of bad science and unfounded gender ideologies, but they did run the risk of exemplifying the very same problems the authors were critical of: that so many studies base theory on non-representative, non-comparative case studies, personal experiences, and small samples. While this was clearly a scientific publication, it did have a journalistic read at times which helped to highlight the important takeaway points. Lastly, as a vegan feminist scholar, I found the heavy emphasis on debunking "man as hunter" ideology and the myths surrounding the "naturalness" of human violence against other animals (and other humans) to be very useful. Even more intriguing was the insistence that women, too, were involved in animal oppression when the institution did arise in human society.

Thorn MotherIssues says

A fantastic book on gender equality, pseudo-Darwinian myths, and bad research based on fallacies. Except somehow it never mentions that not all women are straight, which is kind of an odd lacuna.

Karen says

Now this is a book about men, women, and their obligations--perceived and actual. Perhaps I'm coming off too enthusiastically from the Hirshman "Get to Work" book, but this is a book that tackles issues, cites studies, and makes you think. I am again skimming this title as opposed to performing a close reading, but I'm hitting all the good parts and I haven't found a thing to complain about.

It's definitely on the pop-psych end of the spectrum (versus the academic end) but it's well-documented, straightforward, and not particularly gender-agenda driven. Maybe you'd consider a book that attempts to recast women in roles different from the "traditional" stereotypes about what they want, what they think, and how they act to be a book that has a gender agenda, but it's hardly strident. The first chapter mentions Sarah Hrdy a lot, a scientist I've always enjoyed learning things from (when I encounter her stuff from a popular press source) but they really like her. The first section of the book, the section on relationships, is easily half, with the work and parenting sections shorter and shorter still. What I think is a key part of this work is its exploration of not just gender differences but generational ones.

Again, however, there's a funny term. I could do without the phrase "Ultra Darwinist" because I think the word "Darwinist" has too many religious and cultural nasty connotations, and they are sort of using it as a vague pejorative for a group of people that might be more likely to class themselves as "Anti-Darwinist." I am referring here to the adoption of the term by the creationist/intelligence design crowd, who call the "competition" "Darwinists." You know, the people who accept evolution. In this book, however, "Ultra Darwinist" refers to people overly committed to the idea of gender differences as byproducts of evolution. The book is a few years old; perhaps the "Darwinist"/"Evolutionist" link hadn't been made in some religious-

political circles yet.

It amuses me a little that the subtitle places Children in a position of more importance than Jobs, although the text of the book does not. Oh, those wacky editors and marketing departments!

Kerra says

Interesting research, but some sections felt like they went on and on, repeating the same information too many times. A little hard to get through but I'm glad I read it.

Mike says

Excellent, well-research, well-written, thorough primer on the subject of gender and inequality. This one stays on the shelf.

Miri says

I almost gave this 4 stars because stylistically, there were some things I didn't care for. But the information is the important part, and as information goes I think this is about as essential as it gets for right now. I'll be writing about it on my blog.
