



## The Gendered Society

By Michael S. Kimmel

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*The Gendered Society* examines current thinking about gender, both inside academia and in our everyday lives. Through an examination of current work in biology, anthropology, psychology, and sociology (in Part I), an original analysis of the gendered worlds of family, education, and work (in Part II), and the gendered interactions of friendship and love, sexuality, and violence (in Part III), Kimmel makes three claims about gender. First, he argues that the differences between men and women are not as great as we often imagine, and that in fact women and men have far more in common with one another than we think they do. Second, he challenges the notions of many pop psychologists who suggest that gender difference is the cause of the dramatic observable inequality between the sexes. Instead, Kimmel reveals that the reverse is true: gender inequality is the cause of the differences between women and men. Third, Kimmel argues that gender is not simply an aspect of individual identity but is also an institutional phenomenon, embedded in the organizations and institutions in which we interact daily. Kimmel concludes with a brief Epilogue looking ahead to gender relations in the new century. *The Gendered Society* is a well-reasoned, authoritative, and keenly animated statement about gender relations today, written by one of the country's foremost thinkers on the subject. It is an essential text for both scholars and students alike. Kimmel's companion book, *The Gendered Society Reader* (OUP, 1999), provides a perfect complement for classroom use.

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Frustrated at the dearth of materials available for him to assign to students in his courses on the sociology of gender, Kimmel, a sociology professor at State University of New York, Stony Brook, has written an up-to-date survey of the academic literature that should serve his purposes nicely, although this book will be heavy going for anyone for whom it is not assigned reading. His secondary motivation is to counter the "fictitious pseudoscientific claims" of popular writers who preach that men and women are from different planets: "We're not opposite sexes," writes Kimmel, "but neighboring sexes." In chapters that will clearly serve as units on a syllabus, Kimmel (*Manhood in America; Changing Men*) reviews, from a feminist-friendly perspective, current research on how gender affects biology, sexuality, the family, parenting, marriage, the workplace, the classroom and violence. His thesis that "gender difference is the product of gender inequality, and not the other way around" leads to the conclusion that "the society of the third millennium will increasingly degender traits and behaviors without degendering people." Although Kimmel's emphasis is frequently on the necessity of transforming masculinity, the unfinished second half of the gender revolution of the 20th century, he is scrupulous in maintaining balance and comprehensiveness, discussing the lives of both women and men in a variety of cultural contexts. (Mar.)  
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From Library Journal

Kimmel (sociology, SUNY at Stony Brook; *Manhood in America*) critiques beliefs about gender in society. Despite popular thinking on the topic, Kimmel finds great similarities between women and men and reproaches popular writers who claim that "women are from Venus and men are from Mars." He convincingly argues that the differences between men and women are not as vast as those among men or among women, and he proposes that gender differences are the result of gender inequality, not vice versa. Utilizing a social constructionist viewpoint, he further argues that gender difference and gender inequality are not inevitable facets of society; the differences we see result from variables in social position or situation. Kimmel also explores how gender inequality lays the groundwork for presumptions of gender variations, and he considers its effects on our lives. Kimmel, who has an exemplary record in the field of men's studies and gender studies alike, makes a strong case here, conclusively drawing much of his statements from research data without bias or manipulation. What results is a topical treatment well versed in academic research and theoretical analysis. Recommended for larger public and academic gender study collections. DMichael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Lib., IN  
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From [Booklist](#)

Readers curious about what it means to say we live in a gendered society but confused by the trendy mixture of pop psychology, neo-Darwinism, and Mars-Venus theories will value this well-reasoned study. Sociologist Kimmel of State University of New York, Stony Brook, demolishes "fictitious pseudoscientific claims," misunderstandings, and myths, organizing his analysis around difference (how different *are* men and women) and dominance (how are gender difference and gender inequality related). On difference, Kimmel points out that there is more variation *within* either gender than *between* the genders' averages on almost every criterion. As to dominance, he argues that gender inequality *causes* gender difference (which is then used to justify inequality). This social constructivist study explores historical and cross-cultural explanations of gender; examines how we learn gendered identities within gendered institutions (family, school, work); and considers how gender shapes core emotions (friendship, love, sex, violence). He concludes by exploring how gender convergence--*not* androgyny--might give both men and women more

room to develop their full potential. *Mary Carroll*

## **Users Review**

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#### **Jerry Petrus:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *The Gendered Society*. Try to the actual book *The Gendered Society* as your good friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you experience alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Josephine Mares:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled *The Gendered Society* can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Gloria Lentz:**

The book untitled *The Gendered Society* contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy way. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice examine.

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