



Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference

By Cordelia Fine

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“[Fine’s] sharp tongue is tempered with humor. . . . Read this book and see how complex and fascinating the whole issue is.”? *The New York Times*

It’s the twenty-first century, and although we tried to rear unisex children?boys who play with dolls and girls who like trucks?we failed. Even though the glass ceiling is cracked, most women stay comfortably beneath it. And everywhere we hear about vitally important “hardwired” differences between male and female brains. The neuroscience that we read about in magazines, newspaper articles, books, and sometimes even scientific journals increasingly tells a tale of two brains, and the result is more often than not a validation of the status quo.

Women, it seems, are just too intuitive for math; men too focused for housework.

Drawing on the latest research in neuroscience and psychology, Cordelia Fine debunks the myth of hardwired differences between men’s and women’s brains, unraveling the evidence behind such claims as men’s brains aren’t wired for empathy and women’s brains aren’t made to fix cars. She then goes one step further, offering a very different explanation of the dissimilarities between men’s and women’s behavior. Instead of a “male brain” and a “female brain,” Fine gives us a glimpse of plastic, mutable minds that are continuously influenced by cultural assumptions about gender.

Passionately argued and unfailingly astute, *Delusions of Gender* provides us with a much-needed corrective to the belief that men’s and women’s brains are intrinsically different?a belief that, as Fine shows with insight and humor, all too often works to the detriment of ourselves and our society.

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Editorial Review

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In a methodical and devastatingly effective manner, Fine eviscerates the recent trend in attributing society's gender-based differences to biology. The sheer girth of her analysis is staggering as she addresses everything from scientific studies going back more than a century to the latest assertions of "Mars and Venus" author John Gray. Fine pivots from studies on gender-based clothing and toys to a discussion of education, and reviews recent Caldecott Award-winning children's books, noting that one gender is consistently described as "beautiful, frightened, worthy, sweet, weak and scared." (Guess which one.) Fine also explains how experiments are manipulated to provide desirable results and how results are presented without necessary caveats (such as the fact that men were not part of the study). This is social science at its hard-working best as Fine uses solid references to refute the notion that biology trumps pervasive stereotyping, and offers a sterling rebuttal to agenda research and the lure of pseudo-science. --Colleen Mondor

Review

"Starred Review, Pick of the Week. A fabulous combination of wit, passion, and scholarship. . . . This marvelous and important book will change the way readers view the gendered world." (Publishers Weekly)

"Forceful, funny. . . . These are the right questions to be asking." (Boston Globe)

"Fine turns the popular science book formula on its head. Chapter-by-chapter, she introduces ideas about innate differences between the sexes... and then tartly smacks around studies supposedly supporting them." (Dan Vergano - USA Today)

"[Fine] effectively blows the lid off of old tropes... Weaving together anecdotes, dense research and quotes from numerous experts, she offers a well-balanced testament to the many ways in which cultural rules inform behaviors often mistaken as organic to our brains, as opposed to learned... [An] informative and often surprising study." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Cordelia Fine has a first-rate intellect and writing talent to burn. In her new book, *Delusions of Gender*, she takes aim at the idea that male brains and female brains are 'wired differently,' leading men and women to act in a manner consistent with decades-old gender stereotypes. Armed with penetrating insights, a rapier wit, and a slew of carefully researched facts, Fine lowers her visor, lifts her lance, and attacks this idea full-force. Whether her adversaries can rally their forces and mount a successful counter-attack remains to be seen. What's certain at this point, however, is that in *Delusions of Gender* Cordelia Fine has struck a terrific first blow against what she calls 'neurosexism.'" (William Ickes, author of *Everyday Mind Reading: Understanding What Other People Think and Feel*)

"In *Delusions of Gender* Cordelia Fine does a magnificent job debunking the so-called science, and especially the brain science, of gender. If you thought there were some inescapable facts about women's minds?some hard wiring that explains poor science and maths performance, or the ability to remember to buy the milk and arrange the holidays?you can put these on the rubbish heap. Instead, Fine shows that there are almost no areas of performance that are not touched by cultural stereotypes. This scholarly book will make you itch to press the delete button on so much nonsense, while being pure fun to read." (Uta Frith FBA, FMedSci, FRS; Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London)

About the Author

Cordelia Fine, an associate professor at the University of Melbourne, is author of the much-acclaimed *Delusions of Gender* and *A Mind of Its Own*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rodney Bryant:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference*. Try to the actual book *Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference* as your friend. It means that it can be your friend when you feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunate in your case. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So, let's make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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Kimberly Duda:

With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely *Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference*. This book which is qualified as *The Hungry Inclines* can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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