

unhealthy circumstances. This argument continues to the end of the book, with the discussion of Carol Gilligan's views versus those of her critics, and is not yet resolved.

*Female Adolescence in American Scientific Thought* is a history book that addresses ideas that are interesting and relevant to psychologists who teach about, study, or work with development in general or that of girls and women in particular. It is well written and provides generous quotations from the works discussed, many of which readers will likely not have read. It is well worth the effort this book requires to learn more about the social and historical context of our field. While reading it, I was reminded of Sandra Bem's (1993) argument that the question "what biological sex differences are there?" is the wrong question. The right question is: "why is androcentrism institutionalized so that difference is transformed to advantage?" This history of ideas about female development reveals the many different guises of and justifications for male advantage and will be of special interest to women's studies faculty.

#### REFERENCE

Bem, Sandra. (1993). *The lenses of gender*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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#### TELLING GENDER'S FORTUNE: INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS EXPLORE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

*The Future of Gender*. JUDE BROWNE (ED.).  
Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007. 288  
pp., \$29.99 (paperback) ISBN: 978-0-521-69725-5.

In this book, a group of international experts presents multiple perspectives on what the future holds for the concept of gender. Drawing on such domains as sociology, political science, economics, developmental psychology, evolutionary psychology, and gender studies, this collection of essays provides the reader with multifaceted and, at times, diverging viewpoints on how gender should be reconceptualized, the major issues pertaining to gender justice, and future directions for public policy. Some argue that gender is an outdated idea; for example, the concept of gender is argued by one author as no longer a useful construct because the lines have blurred between the concepts of "woman" and "man" as persons who identify as transgendered, transsexual, and intersex have received greater recognition. Others argue for the utility of gender as a concept, because it allows us to perceive and protest issues of gender discrimination or to value the different ways in which women and men contribute to society.

The book is divided into three sections: reorienting the feminist imagination, variations on the theme of gender, and gender and political practice. Within each section, contrasting ideas are explored by different authors. Given the sheer variability of ideas, readers are sure to find some perspectives to be provocative and controversial. For example, some feminists may take issue with some points of view endorsing Hakim's preference theory, of which a central idea is that the inequalities in the workforce are due to women having different goals and values, and hence preferring different work from men. Others argue that workforce inequalities are due to socialization influences and contextual issues, rather than a true gender difference in work preferences. In particular, readers will find thorough arguments for and against this particular theoretical perspective and will gain the opportunity to reexamine their own perceptions in depth.

In addition, major ideas for social change are presented. Several authors agree that increasing the visibility and inclusion of gender issues and feminist perspectives in political arenas will help bring about social change. Also, it is advocated by some that parenting and caretaking activities should be seen less as an extension of women's reproductive capacities and more as activities that men can and should undertake. Implications of this perspective in regard to gender roles, division of labor, and the wage gap are discussed. Regardless of where some may stand on these and other issues, they are sure to find some interesting and thought-provoking views in this book.

In general, the book offers sophisticated arguments featuring complexity and depth. However, some chapters may be experienced as more readable or comprehensible than others. At points, some authors may lose some of their readers as a result of flowery language and seemingly overly intellectualized arguments. Also, it would be more helpful if citations were provided for data-driven conclusions so as to better facilitate the evaluation of claims. Nevertheless, those familiar with gender studies and feminist issues will likely understand and value the book overall. This is an excellent book for those interested in social justice issues pertaining to gender, as well as those who study or are otherwise interested in gender. How is gender changing and what does the future hold for this concept? The book makes an important contribution in addressing these and other questions.

For those who study and work in psychology, this book may be especially valuable in providing insight into the gender issues people currently face and may face in the future. In addition, it suggests possible avenues of social advocacy and political change. Finally, those in psychology can benefit from learning more about gender issues from socioeconomic, socio-political, legal, and other perspectives.

It is important to note that, although this book is written by international collaborators who focus and comment on gender primarily in regard to international problems and solutions, much in the book is relevant to the United States.

For example, one author presents evidence of gender discrimination against women running for parliamentary office in the United Kingdom. Clearly, similar issues arise in the United States when women compete for public offices. Also, we may reflect on the bold proposal of one essay's author, who suggests that the best place for feminism and gender equality struggles to make progress is in the United Kingdom, because the United States can be seen as being blocked from such progress at this time by a return to more traditional gender roles as a result of the tragedy of 9/11 events. At the very least, greater knowledge and insight regarding the global nature of gender issues can be developed. As former 2007 American Psychological Association president Sharon Stephens Brehm advocated, the future of psychology lies in taking on more of a global, international perspective in our work (New president looks ahead, 2007). Regardless, it may seem apparent to those interested in gender studies that gender injustices and the concept of gender permeate all countries, and these international issues are worthy of inclusion in analyses as we seek to answer questions about how to move forward in tackling social issues of egalitarianism and parity.

#### REFERENCE

New president looks ahead. (2007, January). *Monitor on Psychology*, 38, 34–36.

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#### THE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL SIDE OF ECONOMIC INJUSTICE

*Psychology and Economic Injustice: Personal, Professional, and Political Intersections*. BERNICE LOTT & HEATHER E. BULLOCK. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2007. 190 pp., \$55.95 (hardcover) ISBN: 1-59147-429-9.

Within psychology, it is rare that a book addresses poverty and economic injustice and devotes specific attention to the political and systemic forces that enable it. This book, *Psychology and Economic Injustice: Personal, Professional, and Political Intersections*, written by two feminist social psychologists (Bernice Lott and Heather Bullock), does just that. The book is well written and informs the reader about the issues of poverty, privilege, classism, and economic injustice from personal, political, and systemic perspectives. The authors take on psychologists' and psychological researchers' failure to examine the social institutions (the American cultural climate, political institutions, and government policies) that perpetuate economic injustice.

This book begins with an introductory chapter that addresses the critical issues low-income individuals face, including social class identification, wage gaps, the impact of the war, and reproductive issues. The next two chapters are personal reflections by the authors about their own intimate experiences with poverty and class privilege. These two chapters are especially poignant and reflect a feminist commitment to examination of one's own status, context, and social position. In contrast to other books that contain personal reflection chapters, the authors do not simply leave the material in the personal reflection chapters. They integrate the personal information in the three remaining chapters that focus on psychology, politics, and professional activism. In particular, they put a human face on many of the poverty statistics by appropriately discussing their personal situations within the context of welfare reform, educational opportunities, and low-wage job opportunities.

In chapter four, which addresses "resources for human welfare," Lott and Bullock describe the basic needs of most Americans, such as food, education, decent wages, child care, and health care. Within this chapter, they discuss legislation and government policies that prevent people in poverty from having access to these resources. Lott and Bullock draw from various sources and disciplines, including psychology, national statistics, and popular media outlets. Therefore, this chapter goes beyond psychological research data and integrates information directly from sources that inform the complexity of the problems.

Chapter five offers another unique perspective that is often missed within the psychological discourse on poverty—the psychology behind the perpetuation of poverty. Lott and Bullock outline who benefits from economic oppression and introduce the reader and psychological community to the politics of "class warfare." The authors are bold in their commentary about this topic and are true to the feminist creed of "the personal is political." They do not shy away from a hardnosed discussion of the ways in which the term class warfare is used by politicians to exclude low-income women and minorities from having access to resources and power. This approach is refreshing; too often, in an effort to remain politically neutral, psychologists perpetuate the problems of poverty by not analyzing the very real political rhetoric and social policy that sustains economic injustice.

The last chapter provides the reader with direct suggestions about how to be professional activists and work for social change and economic justice. One critical question the authors pose to psychologists is: "Whom are we working for?" They encourage psychologists and social science researchers to consider whose interests are served by our research. They also advocate for the psychological research community to move away from research questions that focus on the characteristics of the poor and to examine the broader social issues that sustain poverty, such as the impact of punitive welfare policies or low wages.

Although I found this book highly informative, one area in which it fell short was the integration of current feminist