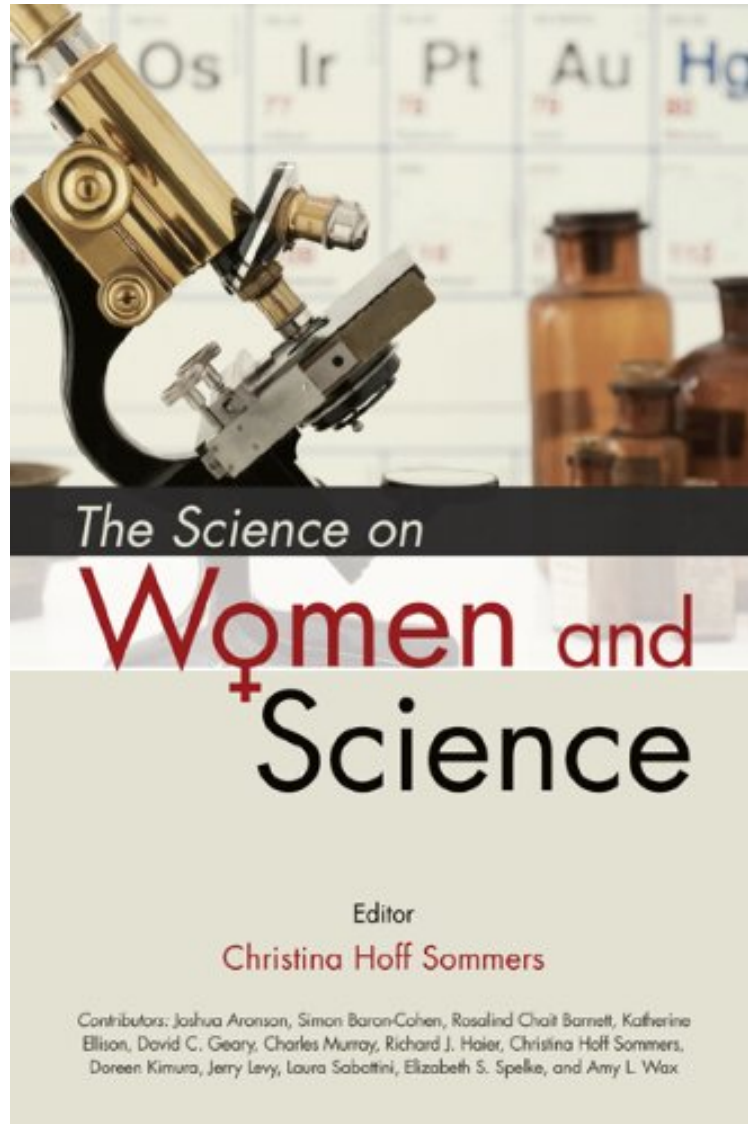


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The Science on Women and Science

Christina Hoff Sommers

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Christina Hoff Sommers : The Science on Women and Science before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Science on Women and Science:

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Why are there so few women in science and mathematics? Presents arguments based on biology versus social construct. By Craig Matteson We all know the power of political correctness especially when it comes to science and mathematics. The sad tale of Larry Summers and Harvard should convince anyone of the highly charged nature of the situation. Christina Hoff Sommers is no stranger to these politically correct battles. This excellent book presents papers examining why there are so few women in science and

mathematics. Is it biology or culture? The papers balance both sides of the argument with Charles Murray offering his conclusion in favor of biology. Simon Baron-Cohen opens asking "Why So Few Women in Math and Science?" and makes a case for biological selection. Elizabeth Spelke and Katherine Ellison counter with the Gender Gap being foisted onto women. Rosalind Chait Barnett and Laura Sabattini present a paper pointing that women were once excluded almost universally from science, and still are. But now the walls are harder to see. Sommers presents a paper showing that while women are now earning the majority of all college degrees and dominate certain fields, they are still vastly under represented in math and science despite programs and incentives to counter that imbalance. Joshua Aronson argues that women are the victims of stereotypes. Amy Wax attacks the notion of the power of stereotypes in explaining the gender imbalance. David Geary presents his take on evolution and the sex differences in science and math. Richard Haier says that the evidence is far from conclusive and that the same old prejudices are just being dressed up in a gown that merely looks like science. Jerre Levy and Doreen Kimura discuss the differences in the male and female brain and why that might help us understand why fewer women choose science and math. Charles Murray concludes that the evidence strongly favors biology over social construction and while the social theory has been favored by academia for several decades, biology will likely push it aside in the next several years. However, he strongly cautions that individuals should never be limited or constrained in opportunity based upon the mean or average abilities of their group. Interesting reading and I hope you take a look. Reviewed by Craig Matteson, Ann Arbor, MI 22 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Guns Blazin' By femfatale2009 What exactly does it mean to turn your guns on someone? This book does not say that women scientists are bad for American science or that more women scientists in academia would be bad for American science. Rather, this book seeks to have the debate about why there aren't as many women in the STEM fields (Science Technology Engineering and Math) as other fields when there are no proactive barriers of entrance anymore (such as being denied access to degree programs on the basis of gender). I find it fascinating that Sommers (a Jewish professor) may be the scion of Schlafly (one of the leaders of the evangelical Christian right). Perhaps trying to put these two very different women in the same boat is Ms. Golden's poor attempt to "turn her guns" on Dr. Sommers with slick defamation? One of the things I find most refreshing about this collection is that instead of one-sided venomous unsubstantiated rhetoric (please read Mary Golden's Customer Review for a wonderful example) Dr. Sommers purposely brings together the best minds from many different sides of the issue to explain, w/their studies in tow, why reforms are needed, not needed, possibly needed after more data is in, etc. etc. etc. Fear indeed. Hmmp. So in conclusion, buy the book or don't buy the book. But don't not buy a book that sets out to understand both sides of an important issue because it is published by a think tank you may or may not like. At the end of the day, it is that sort of thinking that manipulates fear and stops genuine thoughtful reform. 10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating read for any looking into the psychology of science. By Midwest Book Review The gender barrier seems to have one last stand in the world of science. "The Science on Women and Science" discusses the lack of women in the physical sciences, where men still hold an overwhelming majority of positions. Offering much social discussion in this field and the idea that there may be more to it than simple social pressures - hard wired biological factors may be involved as well - "The Science on Women and Science" is a fascinating read for any looking into the psychology of science.

Women have achieved or exceeded parity with men in most academic fields but continue to be outnumbered in the physical sciences, engineering, and math. For many equity activists, this imbalance constitutes a serious problem, even a "crisis," necessitating federal oversight to prevent gender bias in higher education and scientific industries. Congress, the Obama administration, and many science and education leaders are considering dramatic measures to improve women's prospects in the sciences. But what if claims of gender bias have been exaggerated? In 2007, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released *Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Promise of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*, an influential study suggesting that women face a hostile environment in the laboratory. The NAS report dismissed the possibility that gender disparities in scientific fields might be attributable to biological differences and called for immediate remedial action in education, government, and business. This volume examines the research behind the NAS's claims and presents a more balanced analysis of the gender gap. Scientific research on the relationship between gender and vocation is complex, vibrant, and full of reasonable disagreements. Some scholars agree that discrimination is the best explanation for the current configuration of men and women in science, but others, perhaps a majority, suggest that biology and considered preference explain why men and women follow different career paths. *The Science on Women and Science* is a lively, readable, and balanced collection of articles by distinguished scholars from sides of an often-contentious debate.