

targeted to undergraduates, this encyclopedic text would be a useful addition to anyone's bookshelf. In the first chapter, sexuality is introduced as more than just the biological act of sex. Instead, the authors describe how sexuality is a fluid concept that has changed over time as humans have evolved both physically and societally. Later chapters describe sex specifics in both male and female bodies, leading to a discussion of sex, gender, and transgender individuals. Two chapters are given to sexuality throughout the life span, and several more chapters address sexual orientation, atypical sexuality, and sexual disorders. Potentially negative aspects of human sexuality are also discussed, including disease and assault. Visually, the pages in *Discovering Human Sexuality* are equally covered in well written text and helpful images, including photographs, historically relevant pictures, and anatomical diagrams. If six hundred pages was not enough, the book has a companion website, complete with summaries, study questions, and online activities.

What is truly impressive about *Discovering Human Sexuality* is the positivity with which the authors approached the presented topics. Unsurprisingly, the text is written in a highly sex positive way, which allows it to remain informative while dealing with subjects that may make readers uncomfortable at times. The unbiased manner in which the authors discuss sexual positions or group relations allows the text to be instructive, yet non-judgmental. It is clear that the authors put effort into being inclusive of the diversity that exists in human experiences. Thus, this textbook is an ideal resource for the variety of students enrolled in a college course on human sexuality. Overall, the interdisciplinary collaboration of LeVay, Baldwin, and Baldwin has produced a comprehensive guide, and generally good read, to one of the most pervasive aspects of human nature.

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***Gender Circuits, Second Edition.*** By Eve Shapiro. New York, NY: Routledge; 2015, US \$39.95, (Paperback). 280 p. ISBN: 978-0415638531.

While humans are working harder than ever to drive technological discovery, sociologists would argue that, in turn, these advances in technology are changing what it means to be human. With the release of its second edition, *Gender Circuits* discusses the sociological impact of changing technology on sex, gender, and society in an instructive and relatable manner. Written for the average undergraduate, Shapiro's work is easily accessible and relatively free of jargon, with all key concepts clearly defined. The reader is given numerous examples, including first-hand stories and historical accounts that relate sociological ideology to the reader in a personable manner.

The first chapter begins with a reference to the film *Kinky Boots*, using the story of Lola, a drag queen who pi-

oneers high heeled shoes designed for male bodies, to illustrate that new technologies have shaped how gender is perceived, and in turn redefining gender necessitates innovation. The author then steps back to provide a historical background of technology and gender from a social perspective. Later chapters discuss how information technologies allow exploration of gender and identity in today's digital world and how biomedical technologies allow individuals to modify their physical bodies in new ways.

Mixed in with the broader chapters are individual case studies that provide in depth analysis of specific areas where technology and gender interplay. These alternate chapters discuss varied topics such as the relationship between tattooing and masculinity or bloomers and the nineteenth century woman, allowing the reader to apply concepts learned in the main chapters to novel scenarios.

Overall, *Gender Circuits* is a pleasure to read, the text manages to be informative without coming across as overly didactic, owing to the plethora of examples and stories provided by the author. Rather ironically, several updated cases of information technologies added to the second edition, such as MySpace and Second Life, would likely be considered outdated by today's average undergraduate. Instead of detracting from the work, this fact could be used to begin a discussion about new technologies that have shaped and been shaped by modern society.

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***Gendered Worlds, Third Edition.*** By Judy Root Aulette and Judith Wittner. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2015. US \$79.95 (Paperback). 564 p. ISBN: 978-0199335619.

*Gendered Worlds, Third Edition*, by Judy Root Aulette and Judith Wittner explores the multiplicity of issues within the concept of gender inequality. By introducing an array of gender-influenced topics, the book serves as an excellent resource for stimulating discussion in undergraduate and graduate-level women and gender studies courses. The strength of this textbook lies in its analysis of intersectionality—this is, the role that “cross-cutting inequalities” such as race, class, and sexuality influence gender disparities. Supported by “real world” examples, each gender theme is addressed with consideration to these complicating factors.

Aulette and Wittner begin with a general overview of the gender assumptions that infiltrate all societies to varying degrees, introducing the notion of gender inequality. From here, the reader is positioned to tackle more in-depth analyses pertaining to the consequences of and movements challenging gender-related inequalities. While maintaining a succinct style, *Gendered Worlds* addresses diverse topics from the biological components that influence one's gender to the perpetuation of gender stereo-

types by the media. If a particular topic strikes the interest of the reader, he or she should consult the outside texts provided at the end of each chapter for more detailed information.

With the arrival of the third edition comes the addition of current issues facing gender equality activists. The reader may find many of these fiercely debated topics familiar, thus establishing a connection between current events and the underlying theory discussed in this book. Topics include women in military combat, the portrayal of gender and sexuality in the media, and the wage gap between women and men. Synthesizing theory with these empirical examples will encourage the reader to think critically about the weight of gender on any given social issue. Students will find *Gendered Worlds* to be a fitting guide to the many gender concepts integrated into modern societies.

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***Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective, Sixth Edition.*** By Linda L. Lindsey. New York, NY: Routledge; 2014, US \$104.00 (Paperback). 576 p. ISBN: 978-0205899685.

*Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective, Sixth Edition*, delivers a clear and concise review of the foundations of knowledge in the field of gender studies with historical, contemporary and cultural context. The text provides important, essential commentary on current research in the field. The sixth edition tackles gender myths, gendered trends in health and mental health, and provides a framework for understanding gender roles within traditional and contemporary media. New research in this edition expounds and delineates a wide variety of topics, including masculinity norms in social institutions, gender roles within political elections, and the gender issues that intersect with public policy.

The text is organized in an attentive and deliberate manner that provides structured context to the sociological commentaries. The content is divided into three parts, namely: “Part I: Theoretical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives,” “Part II: Gender Roles, Marriage, and the Family,” and “Part III: Gender Roles: Focus on Social Institutions.” Part I lays the groundwork with in-depth exposition of fundamental sociological concepts, feminism, and gender theories, providing the natural history and historical context of these perspectives. Part II addresses gender issues within the social constructs of family, marriage, and household. Part III summarizes the key theories and points, culminating in application of central concepts to contemporary issues in business, education, economics, religion, public policy, law, and the media. The information is uniformly and cogently organized with each part subdivided into sections. Each section begins with learning objectives and ends with a

summary of emphasized concepts, section of key terms, and critical thinking questions. The organization is simple yet thoughtfully structured providing effective guidance.

This well-structured organization is repeated throughout the text. For example, Part II is divided into sections on love and marriage, family relations, and men and masculinity. The first section in “Part II” is a section (chapter 7) entitled “Gendered Love, Marriage, and Emerging Lifestyles.” This chapter distinguishes between the concepts of love, friendship and marriage, challenges regarding some common myths surrounding romance and love. Further, this articulate, excellently written chapter introduces avant-garde styles of relationships. This leads into the next chapters in Part II which discuss the gender issues within family relationships; and lastly, new research on gender issues from the “micro-level” of sociological inspection; specifically, male gender roles and masculinity. The natural step-wise progression of the text builds a strong context before introducing the new research and its commentaries. To balance the interpretations of these sociological views, critiques, given their own sub-sections, are found throughout the text and provide unbiased opposing views.

*Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective* offers readers both historical and contemporary views of the gender issues. The text provides not only context but also examples for these issues within a wide array of frameworks including political, economic, and cultural contexts. Initially introducing the foundation of sociological concepts needed to understand these issues, the text allows novice readers to quickly develop a sophisticated working knowledge about these important issues. This book is highly recommended not only for public consumers and students, but also for experts in the field who will appreciate the astute description and discussion of the latest research, as well as a rich, comprehensive review of fundamental sociologic concepts.

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