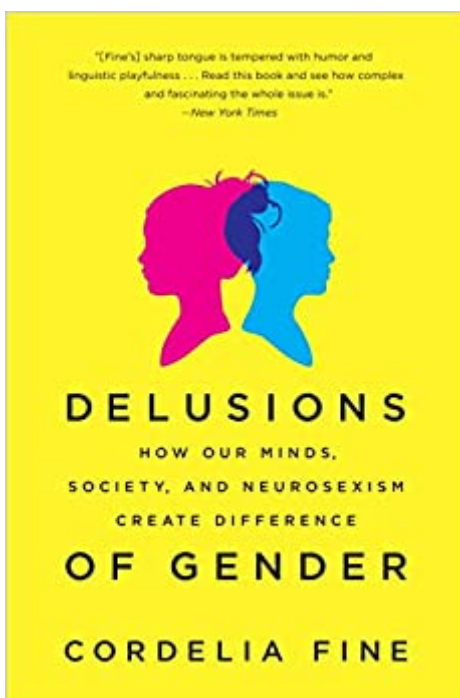


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# Delusions Of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, And Neurosexism Create Difference



## Synopsis

“[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 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"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 or 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

At times, the book does come off as repetitive, but I think the reason they do that is because they're really trying to drive the point home. We like to think that sexism is over because of the laws we managed to pass, but legislation can only do so much. There is still sexism in our society and we have to continue fighting the battle. Thank you, Cordelia, for writing this book!

It came in mint condition and is a brilliant book.

I love this book. Its helping to unscramble my brain and validate my feelings and experiences after years of wondering why everything around me felt wrong, intolerable and unfair. There I was thinking I was "just too sensitive".

This is an excellent study of the differences in gender and the now accepted cultural factor not biological aspect of gender.

excellent book, you can see the rigour of research and analysis but it is written in a witty, inclusive way that allows ordinary and non-specialised people to be part of the conversation. Its a complex task to get both ends of the spectrum right. I rate this super highly

Love love love it! Definitely worth getting if you are interested in gender identity and socialization!

Just when it looked like neuroscience was justifying our current worldview that innate differences

are somehow "hardwired" into the brains of little boys and little girls author Cordelia Fine comes along and checks out the scientific studies. What she exposes and describes in detail are poorly designed experiments, blind leaps of faith and convoluted circular reasoning. In scientists! According to what Fine uncovered we have mutable brains, continuously influenced and changed by our cultural environment. Besides being thought provoking--it may make you rethink a lot of your beliefs--this book is both funny and well written.

I wasn't sure exactly what to expect when I ordered this book. I'm amazed with how well and thoroughly researched this book is. For those saying this book isn't based on scientific findings...the author is very specifically quoting and referring to scientific research done by neuro scientists. She's not simply writing about her opinions based on her own observations and feelings. She also does not dismiss neuroscience as a field. She admits clearly that there are biological differences in the sexes, but that the strength of these physical differences may not be the cause of the extreme behavior differences/stereotypes that are being touted as "facts" via articles in the media. Telling girls that they are inherently not good at math has a damaging effect on their confidence, which in turn causes many girls and women to turn away from those fields, and vice versa- telling men they are not good at caring for others can cause them to turn their noses up at the idea of entering "girlish" fields. There are layers here, and this is a subject that deserves close attention, not black and white conclusions.

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