

C o n t e n t s

Preface to First Edition	xi
Preface to Second Edition	xiii
Preface to Third Edition	xv
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
The Cycle of Bias	1
Two Dangerous Assumptions	2
A Whole New Way of Thinking	4
What You Will Learn	5
What Do We Mean by Sex and Gender?	6
Outline of the Text	9
Keeping Sex Differences in Perspective	11
Chapter 2 A Brief Historical Perspective on Sex-Difference Research	13
Whose History Is It, Anyway?	13
The Search for Proof of Women's Inferiority	14
Sociobiology and Evolutionary Psychology: Today's Social Darwinism?	20
Summary of Some Problematic Patterns	22
Chapter 3 Using Scientific Method to Study Sex and Gender	23
Choosing What to Study	24
Determining Exactly What You're Looking For	24
Designing the Research	25
Carrying Out the Study	27
Interpreting the Results	29
Meta-Analysis: Combining Studies	30
Why Study Sex/Gender Differences?	31

Chapter 4	Are Boys Better than Girls at Math?	36
	Measuring “Math Reasoning Ability” 38	
	The Problem of Obtaining a Uniform Sample 39	
	The Power of Suggestion 40	
	From Specific to General 41	
	The Unjustified Claim That Males’ Superiority Is Innate 42	
	A Recent Development 44	
Chapter 5	Sex Differences in Spatial Abilities	46
	What Are Spatial Abilities? 46	
	Extent of Sex Differences 48	
	Building Theories on Shifting Sands 49	
Chapter 6	Do Females Have Better Verbal Abilities than Males?	52
	What Are Verbal Abilities? 53	
	Are There Sex Differences in Verbal Abilities? 55	
	Problems with Test Construction 56	
	Why Have Some People Believed in Females’ Verbal Superiority? 57	
Chapter 7	Modern Research About Sex Differences in the Brain	58
	Studying the Brain: What Can and Can’t We Learn from This Complementary Approach to Sex-Difference Research? 58	
	How Brain Structure and Function Are Measured 59	
	Laying Bare the Assumptions Underlying Brain Research About Sex Differences 60	
	An Example: The Connection Between the Hemispheres of the Brain 63	
Chapter 8	Do Hormones Make the Woman—or the Man?	65
	What Could “PMS” Be? 67	
	What Is Postpartum Depression? 70	
	Is Menopause a Problem? 71	
	Why It’s Hard to Investigate Hormonally Caused Problems 72	
	Is There a “Male Menopause”? 75	
	The Choice of Research Question 76	

Chapter 9	Sexuality	78
	Males as the Standard 78	
	Prototypes and Stereotypes 79	
	Are Findings of Difference Universal? Cross-Cultural Comparisons 80	
	Are Findings of Difference Biologically Based? Comparative Animal Studies 80	
	Some Notes About Sexual Orientation 81	
	Homosexuality Called a Disorder 83	
	The “Causes” of Homosexuality 84	
	“Gender Identity Disorder” 86	
Chapter 10	The Myth of Women’s Masochism	87
	May’s Study 89	
	A New Look at Females and Masochism 92	
Chapter 11	Should Relational Abilities Be Called “Dependency”?	94
	Dependency and Emotions 95	
	Are Females Morally Inferior to Males? 97	
	Assertiveness 99	
	A Revealing Pair of Studies 100	
Chapter 12	Sex Differences in Aggression	102
	Is Males’ Greater Aggressiveness Innate? 103	
	The Research on Sex Differences in Aggression 106	
	Are Females Aggressive in Different Ways? 108	
	Some Social and Political Consequences of Assumptions About Aggression 109	
	Toward a More Enlightened Future 110	
Chapter 13	Mother-Blame	111
	Is Mother-Blame Either Justified or Helpful? 112	
	Distortions of Father’s Role 115	
	Why Does Mother-Blaming Occur? 116	

Chapter 14	Breaking the Cycle of Bias: Becoming an Informed Judge of Research	119
References		121
Index		137