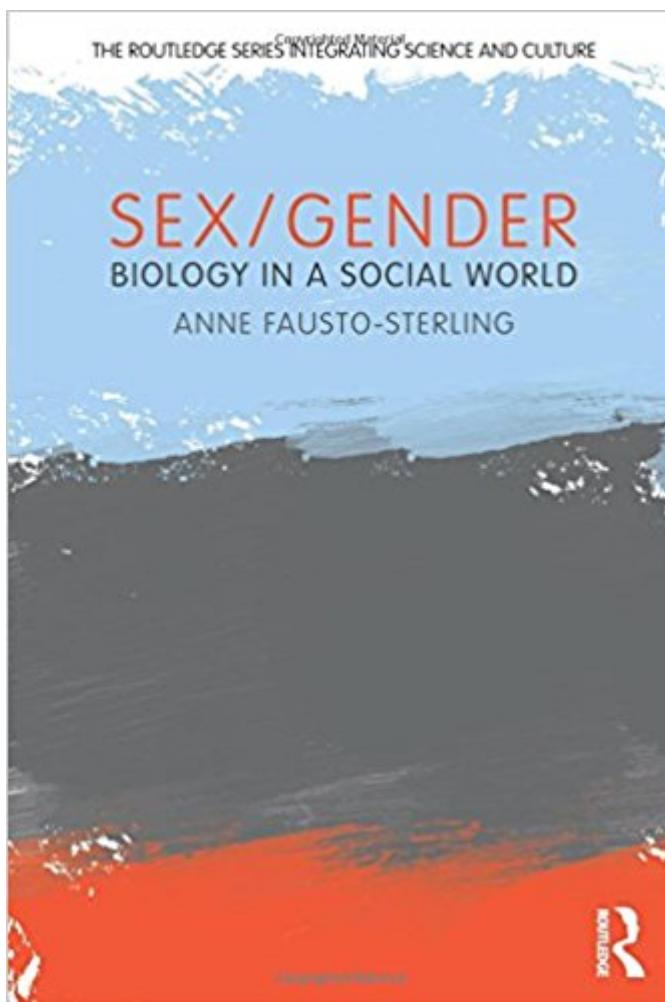


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# Sex/Gender: Biology In A Social World (The Routledge Series Integrating Science And Culture)



## **Synopsis**

Sex/Gender presents a relatively new way to think about how biological difference can be produced over time in response to different environmental and social experiences. This book gives a clearly written explanation of the biological and cultural underpinnings of gender. Anne Fausto-Sterling provides an introduction to the biochemistry, neurobiology, and social construction of gender with expertise and humor in a style accessible to a wide variety of readers. In addition to the basics, Å Sex/Gender ponders the moral, ethical, social and political side to this inescapable subject. An interview with the author! WOMR - The Lowdown with Ira Wood - Sex an Gender Identity with Anne Fausto-Sterling:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/womr/.jukebox?action=viewMedia&mediaId=1025429> Å Å

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Anne Fausto-Sterling, the Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Biology and Gender Studies at Brown University, is a leading expert on the development of gender identity as well as the biology of gender. Her latest research analyzes the emergence of behavioral differences between the sexes in early childhood. She is the author of two earlier books: *Myths of Gender: Biological Theories about Women and Men* (Basic, 1993) and *Sexing the Body: gender politics and the construction of sexuality* (Basic, 2000).

This is the 3rd book by Ms Fausto-Sterling which I have read. Without question, for me this was the

easiest one to read. Ms Fausto-Sterling is by no means a light weight. She is a biologist, feminist and historian of science and is Professor of Biology and Women's Studies at Brown University. Putting it as an understatement, she knows of what she speaks. And of what she speaks, with great authority, are the multiple factors that go into the formation of what is commonly called, "gender." Most of us have an everyday sense of what gender is. In a sense, it is a throw-away concept, for example, baby boys wear blue, baby girls wear pink. Girls can't throw a baseball nor a football with any kind of authority. It's a "boy" thing. Boys who can't throw or have interests that lay in what is stereotypically the realm of the "female gender" are called sissies. The reverse are called "tom-boys". As is her wont, Ms Fausto-Sterling brings a multitude of sciences and research to bear on this notion of "gender." She looks at studies done under the auspices of biology, neurology, psychology, anthropology and even history, to bring the reader to question just what s/he actually means when using the word, "gender." This is a phenomenal and thought provoking book. AFS manages to bring into question everything we think we know about gender and so-called gender-based differences. AFS is usually not all that easy to read. She does her homework and, as in her previous two books, "Myths of Gender," and "Sexing the Body - Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality," her notes, graphs, references and suggested further readings (I immediately bought three of them) tend to take up at least as much space as her text, if not more. One thing is certain, when you read a book by Anne Fausto-Sterling, you know you are reading the work of a very serious scholar. She looks into details that may not even occur to the average reader. She also points out flaws in previous research which leads her to question some findings. One aspect of this newest volume that is new to me is that she shows a sense of humor. Maybe I just missed it in her previous works, but it is a welcome addition here. This adds to the readability of the volume. It seems written for the broader, more general audience. My opinion is that she succeeds at that goal. If you want to begin to explore the issue of gender/sexuality, you can do yourself a service by beginning with this volume. Since it is full of references and notes, you are furnished with many tools as to where to go next if you want to continue your exploration. I love this book and will likely read it again.

This book is great! It's a quick and easy read (just 123 pages) covering the development of sex, gender, and sexuality in an up-to-date and very clear manner. It shows that a basic understanding of how development works in an environmental (for humans, highly social) context can make sense of a lot of the complexity and diversity of sex, gender, and sexuality. It includes a very useful and succinct treatment of Jordan-Young's analysis of the research on "brain sex" (Brain Storm: The

Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences). It addresses issues of sexual development & intersexes that Fausto-Sterling examined in *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*, but in a much more concise (and updated) way. It includes a clear and balanced treatment of the state of knowledge, lack of knowledge, and issues associated with research on the "causes" of sexuality. I team-teach in an interdisciplinary (biology, psychology, literature, history, anthropology) introduction to gender & sexuality, mostly freshmen, and this will be a VERY useful book for us -- getting a core set of critical concepts across in an engaging, easy-to-follow way that does not require excessive amounts of reading. It also references the larger literature so those who want to know more have a guide for further reading.

I greatly appreciated the author's unbiased knowledge, explanations accessible to a layman like me, and how she thoroughly covered the subjects.

Needed this book for a class. Came as advertised but did not interest me much

Perfect condition

Another book for class... has what I need.

Happy with it :)

Arrived in good condition

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