



The Sociology of Gender: A Brief Introduction

Laura Kramer

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In this "essentials" gender text, Laura Kramer presents an overview of basic sociological concepts and perspectives on gender in a concise, accessible format. With a focus on gender in the contemporary United States, Kramer draw on a rich historical background to explain the many complex shifts that have occurred within the gender system over time. She examines the macro-, middle-, and micro-level forces that propelled these changes. Furthermore, the text explores the interaction of social structure and culture to reveal how they have influenced men's and women's lives.

Throughout, the text investigates the changing definition of gender through the lenses of class and race/ethnicity. Current research and in-depth historical coverage ensure that students understand the dynamic nature of gender systems and the vital importance of social action.

The Sociology of Gender's explicitly sociological approach provides an alternative to--and critique of-biological and psychological approaches to gender and sexual orientation. To encourage critical thinking, Kramer analyzes both how and why biological and psychological approaches have become so popular.

A chapter on culture provides an in-depth examination of traditionally dominant versions of femininities and masculinities and how they are communicated through language, mass media, and religion. The concept of individual agency and resistance, introduced in the first chapter, resurfaces throughout in discussions of culture and socialization. The second edition also features expanded coverage of religion, education, same-sex relationships, and feminist activism.

A glossary and evocative discussion questions encourage students to interact with the material. Ideal for introductory sociology courses and other courses in sociology, *The Sociology of Gender* provides a relevant, comprehensive, and lively overview of this vibrant area of study.



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