

**Notes on
Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong
And the new research thats rewriting the story
Book by Angela Saini
Notes by William Gasarch**

Basic theme: Studies over the years have shown that women

1. are not as good at science
2. are not as promiscuous as men
3. are not leaders

and these studies have all been WRONG.

INTRODUCTION

In 2012 a study showed that, by sending out false equal resumes with only diff being gender, women were far LESS likely to be hired. Overt sexism. Women DOING the hiring did not help this. Job was lab-manager, Study done at hale.

In the journal PLOS ONE (largest science journals- what does that mean?) Male students in biology underrate (incorrectly) the abilities of the women in the class. Overestimated Male GPA by 0.57 Women students did NOT do this.

Bolivia- 63 percent of scientists women

Central Asia- 50 percent

India- 30 percent

Iran- high proportion (and only female Fields medalist) (This is changing for the worse.)

(When Field medalist died they published pictures of her without hijab- for first time. Brain drain problems.)-

Why so few women in the sciences in America? child-rearing, sexual harassment, Not encouraged culturally, Perceived as not being as good.

Early days of science excluded women overtly.

Reasons NOT having to do with intellect:

The mental stress of higher education might divert energy from a women's reproductive system, harming her fertility.

Having women around might disrupt the men.

Madam Curie denied membership in the French academy of sciences even though she had two Nobel prizes, because she was a women.

1 CHAPTER 1: WOMAN'S INFERIORITY TO MAN

Darwin thought that since men had to compete for women men were smarter, Man of his time.

In 1894 Eliza Gamble published *The Evolution of Women*, and Inquiry into the dogma of her inferiority Great book! Noted that *female trait's like cooperation are vital to survival and that some societies do have strong women.*

Her arguments were ignored by biologists and other scientists.

1893- New Zealand first country to give women the vote.

1918- England

1920- America

Testosterone was thought to be a way of measuring diff and used to assert male superiority. But it turns out that both sexes have all kinds of hormones. Not a big factor in anything (e.g., risk taking)

2 CHAPTER 2: FEMALES GET SICKER BUT MEN DIE QUICKER

In India the sex ratio is getting more skewed towards boys. Scans and abortion.

Females live longer than males unless society intrudes. Biology and society

Early no- more boys die before age 5 then girls did

Late life- there are 2 men over 110, but 46 women.

Medical research- common to just do tests on males, cheaper, and implicitly females aren't important

That's why Women get sicker- less health studies apply to them.

3 CHAPTER THREE- A DIFFERENCE AT BIRTH

2005 study: Babies two days old shown mobiles and faces. Seemed like boys preferred mobiles (engineering!) and girls faces (Social skills!) Study had

lots of flaws but was widely reported.

1974 book The Psychology of sex differences said NO there was VERY LITTLE sex difference in young children in motor skills, mental rotations, spatial vis, math, verbal, vocal.

Much more variation among men and among women.

One thought was that men have more variety and hence more genius's. Studies show slightly more variety but more on the bottom end, so retards.

Prejudice persists and areas where its thought you need to be a genius more men go into in the first place.

4 CHAPTER FOUR- THE MISSING FIVE OZS OF THE FEMALE BRAIN

Women have smaller brains but also smaller bodies. I'm surprised the smaller brain thing was every used to prove anything.

Larry Cahill has been on a crusade to prove that the brains of women are different than the brains of men.

Gee- what if they are not? How much bias should a scientist have ahead of time?

Brain scans hard to read anything into.

Taxi cab drivers in England who would memorize vast amounts of street data that changed their brain. Even brain stuff might be environment not genetic. (Me and Math certainly true.)

5 CHAPTER FIVE- Women's work

There is a lot of variety in primates. In some women are aggressive, in some women re promiscuous - sometimes to confuse the men about which is their child. Some have fathers very involved with child care. By always mothers love their kids when they are born- never a case of abandonment. Very complicated

Hunter-gatherer societies. Lots of variety- some women are dominant, some women hunt (this is controversial), some have group marriage and promiscuity. Some have fathers very involved with child care. Some human mothers do abandon or neglect their kids which is not done in other

primates. Why? Humans evolved to raise kids in a community (it takes a village).

Father important? Older siblings more important.

Man the hunter while women staying home with the kids is a myth. Harmful myth in that it implied women were not providing for their families Ignoring gathering was downgrading women. Hunting was not a main source of food. Bad ratio of energy vs reward. Sapiens book also says that Agriculture was much more efficient.

Women the gatherer: Male Bias in Anthropology by Sally Linton

One problem- SOME tribes hunt SOME gather, and those that support the Hunting Hypothesis only study the tribes that hunt. For gatherer-fans its more of wanting a place at the table as opposed to being dogmatic with their view so NOT *both being unfair*.

Myth also was that hunting required intelligence so men are smarter, but raising kids and gathering also did.

And in some communities women DO hunt.

Man the tool-maker. Hard to know who made tools back then, but the assumption that it was men is pervasive and a myth.. Among Chimps women are better at making and using tools than men (I doubt thats relevant).

The VARIETY of cultures shows that men and women can do similar things. Even strength is not as big a deal— women had endurance, and to give birth, etc. (Current skinny-model, fragile, is modern thing- even 100 years ago women had to farm. And giving birth is hard!)

Hunter-gatherer societies more egalitarian male-female than previously thought.

6 CHAPTER SIX- CHOOSY NOT CHASTE

Myth: By evolution men want to cheat and women are chaste

Based partially on Bateman's fruit fly study which was later debunked but scientists still cling to it.

In other animals NO- women can be promiscuous, men can be shy. WIDE VARIETY of behavior. Some societies tolerate affairs by both sexes.

Even in other human cultures WIDE VARIETY.

This research has been slow to be accepted.

ODD STORY: Gowaty spend 30 years studying the mating of Eastern Bluebirds, and in the 1970's, when she suggested that female birds were

flying away to mate with males that weren't their partners, she simple was not believed. Her male colleagues couldn't accept it. They told her instead that the female bluebirds must have been raped

Some male animals go to extreme lengths to keep their mates from having sex with other males. They would not need to if females were naturally chaste.

7 CHAPTER SEVEN- WHY MEN DOMINATE

Women have been forced to be submissive Female Circum, Feet binding, Moral double standard (odd given the last chapter on variety of cultures), Men never accepted monogamy for themselves but force it on women Legal systems reinforce this (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Russia-Domestic abuse) Widow burning Culture reinforces all of this. Suppressing of female sexual desire Women leave their family to be with their husband and hence lose their support system

Virginity in women prized (though in American this is gone now?)

The animals that resist this have lots of female cooperation

sectionCHAPTER EIGHT- THE OLD WOMEN WHO WOULDN'T DIE

Menopause- not being able to give birth when older- is almost unique to human beings.

Theories: People live much longer now so this is not natural (COUNTER- in the old days some people DID live long)

Grandmother hyp- they stop having kids so they can help their own kids kids. Also true of Whales which is one of a few other species that have menopause

Women outlive their eggs. (Tautology)

Having kids is hard and meno protects women from this (but why?)

Since they don't have sex they don't need to reproduce (But they DO have sex and not all cultures prefer PYT's)

Book seems to support Grandmother hyp