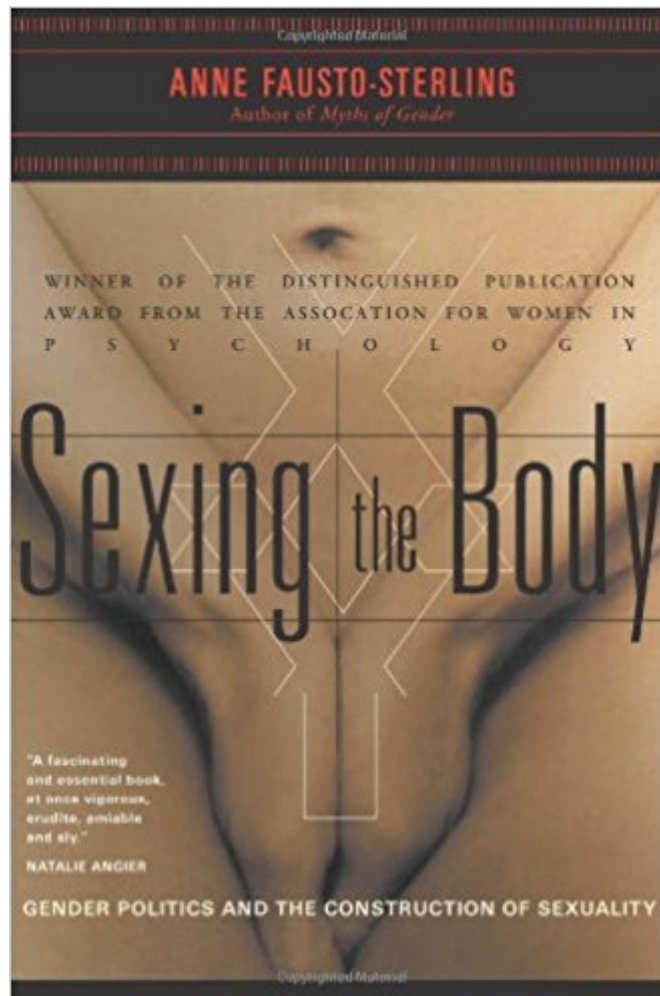




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Sexing The Body: Gender Politics And The Construction Of Sexuality



Synopsis

Why do some people prefer heterosexual love while others fancy the same sex? Is sexual identity biologically determined or a product of convention? In this brilliant and provocative book, the acclaimed author of *Myths of Gender* argues that even the most fundamental knowledge about sex is shaped by the culture in which scientific knowledge is produced. Drawing on astonishing real-life cases and a probing analysis of centuries of scientific research, Fausto-Sterling demonstrates how scientists have historically politicized the body. In lively and impassioned prose, she breaks down three key dualisms - sex/gender, nature/nurture, and real/constructed - and asserts that individuals born as mixtures of male and female exist as one of five natural human variants and, as such, should not be forced to compromise their differences to fit a flawed societal definition of normality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Filled with an enormous amount of fresh ideas and evidence, ...bound to become a high-traffic feminist classic. -- Village Voice

Anne Fausto-Sterling is professor of biology and medicine at Brown University.

This is great book, and though it's almost 10 years old now, it's especially important and relevant to contemporary discussions of transgender and identity. I use it in my Philosophy of Science class, and though some of the technical language is challenging, the way that Fausto-Sterling continues to guide us through the larger narrative means that it's still relatively easy to read those sections. I

highly recommend it.

Great book, must read!

It came packed safely but the cover was folded when I opened it.. Seems like it is good overall. Just wished they were more careful handling it...

I found it fascinating. There's much more plasticity in human sexual identity than we generally think. Only complaint is the tiny size of the print.

...it all comes down to emotions, recalling that the original meaning of that word was a movement of people, a civil disturbance. From the intersexual to the homosexual, Fausto-Sterling reviews the history and politics that informed the science and medical practice of 20th Century sex. I happily add this volume on the gender politics of popular science to a different but equally interesting work by Simon LeVay, *Queer Science*. However unlike LeVay, Fausto-Sterling recognizes a relationship between sexualized science and the rise of American monopoly capitalism (and its demands for social stability) though her observations in this arena are frustratingly preliminary. Readers of this book might also enjoy Jennifer Terry's *An American Obsession* which delves more deeply into cultural history.

I got a little lost in some of the technical talk, but I loved this. It's awesome. Absolutely worth reading. Every good feminist and educated person should read this.

Anne Fausto-Sterling is the definitive expert in this field. Her writing is very comfortable and easily understood. I like the images she evokes with her written words.

It is so beautiful! It arrived before its due date. Looks and reads great! It was an awesome gift for the grandparents. I will recommend this site to everyone!

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