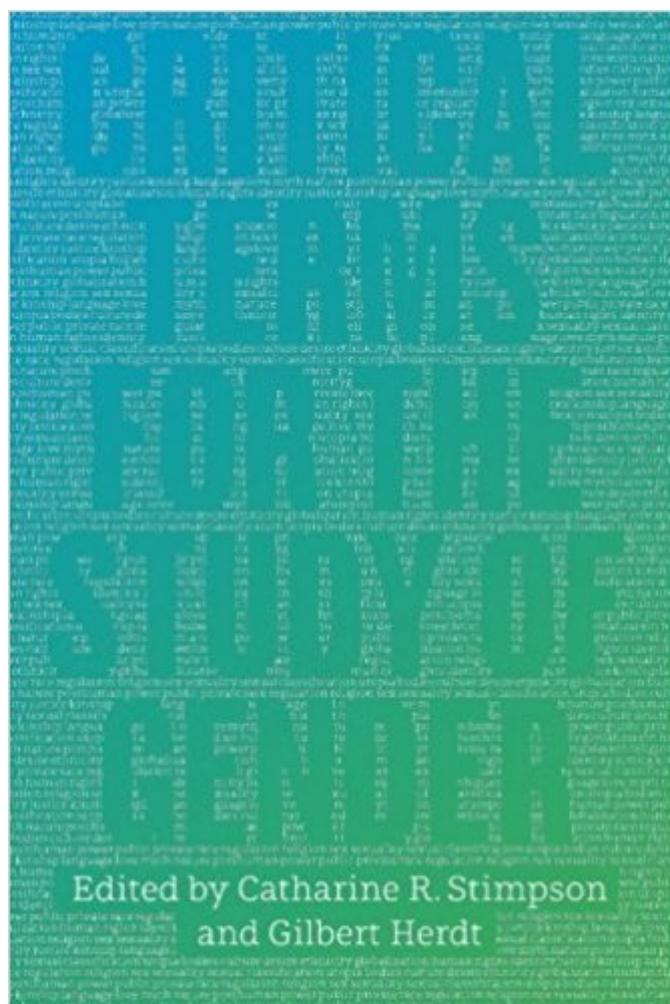


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Critical Terms For The Study Of Gender



Synopsis

“Gender systems pervade and regulate human lives—in law courts and operating rooms, ballparks and poker clubs, hair-dressing salons and kitchens, classrooms and playgroups. . . . Exactly how gender works varies from culture to culture, and from historical period to historical period, but gender is very rarelyÂ notÂ at work. Nor does gender operate in isolation. It is linked to other social structures and sources of identity.â • Â So write womenâ ™s studies pioneer Catharine R. Stimpson and anthropologist Gilbert Herdt in their introduction toÂ Critical Terms for the Study of Gender, laying out the wide-ranging nature of this interdisciplinary and rapidly changing field. The sixth in the series of “Critical Termsâ • books, this volume provides an indispensable introduction to the study of gender through an exploration of key terms that are a part of everyday discourse in this vital subject. Â Following Stimpson and Herdtâ ™s careful account of the evolution of gender studies and its relation to womenâ ™s and sexuality studies, the twenty-one essays here cast an appropriately broad net, spanning the study of gender and sexuality across the humanities and social sciences. Written by a distinguished group of scholars, each essay presents students with a history of a given term—fromÂ bodiesÂ toÂ utopia—and explains the conceptual baggage it carries and the kinds of critical work it can be made to do. The contributors offer incisive discussions of topics ranging fromÂ desire,Â identity,Â justice, andÂ kinshipÂ toÂ love,Â race, andÂ religionÂ that suggest new directions for the understanding of gender studies. The result is an essential reference addressed to students studying gender in very different disciplinary contexts.

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