

Delusions of Gender includes extensive research and sharp wit

Book review: Delusions of Gender (Icon Books, £14.99), by Cordelia Fine, is extensively researched and excellent at debunking over-simplified theories.

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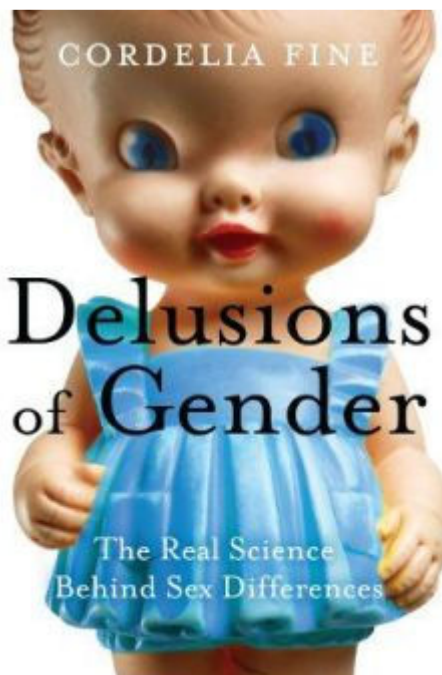
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The persistent notion that women are hard-wired for caring, empathising and multitasking whereas men are genetically programmed for logic, competitiveness and reading maps is given short shrift by research scientist Cordelia Fine.



Delusions of Gender by Cordelia Fine (Icon Books, £14.99)

In this bold book she contrasts scientific facts of gender difference with the reductive and foolish stereotypes that masquerade as popular science.

Timely and provocative, her argument is also excellent at debunking oversimplified theories, for instance that biology is destiny. One cited example comes from research into attitudes towards female-to-male transsexuals in the workplace – in a recent study the overwhelming majority found greater recognition and respect after the transition to a male identity.

This is merely one bullet in a well-stocked armoury that includes extensive research, sharp wit and a probing intelligence, and which refuses to be satisfied with the delusional myth-making that often passes for popular science.