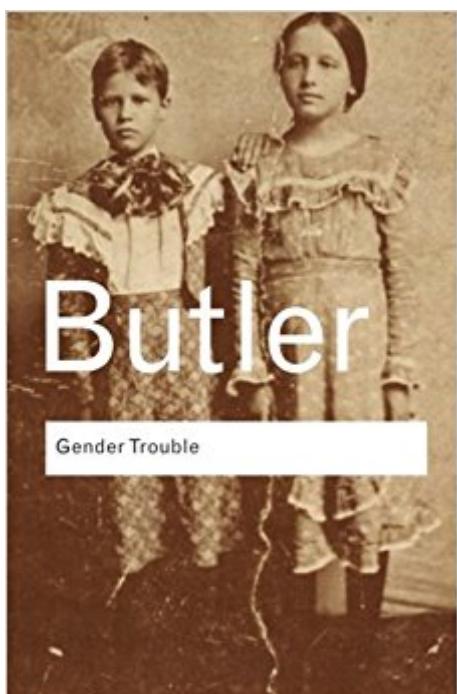


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Gender Trouble: Feminism And The Subversion Of Identity (Routledge Classics) (Volume 36)



Synopsis

One of the most talked-about scholarly works of the past fifty years, Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* is as celebrated as it is controversial. Arguing that traditional feminism is wrong to look to a natural, 'essential' notion of the female, or indeed of sex or gender, Butler starts by questioning the category 'woman' and continues in this vein with examinations of 'the masculine' and 'the feminine'. Best known however, but also most often misinterpreted, is Butler's concept of gender as a reiterated social performance rather than the expression of a prior reality. Thrilling and provocative, few other academic works have roused passions to the same extent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a new introduction to the 10th-anniversary edition of *Gender Trouble*--among the two or three most influential books (and by far the most popular) in the field of gender studies--Judith Butler explains the complicated critical response to her groundbreaking arguments and the ways her ideas have evolved as a result. Nevertheless, she has resisted the urge to revise what has become a feminist classic (as well as an elegant defense of drag, given Butler's emphasis on the performative nature of gender). The book was produced, according to Butler, "as part of the cultural life of a collective struggle that has had, and will continue to have, some success in increasing the possibilities for a livable life for those who live, or try to live, on the sexual margins." An attack on the essentialism of French feminist theory and its basis in structuralist anthropology, *Gender Trouble* expands to address the cultural prejudices at play in genetic studies of sex determination, as well as

the uses of gender parody, and also provides a critical genealogy of the naturalization of sex. A primer in gender studies--and sexy reading for college cafÃfÃ©s. --Regina Marler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

'Rereading this book, as well as reading it for the first time, reshapes the categories through which we experience and perform our lives and bodies. To be troubled in this way is an intellectual pleasure and a political necessity.' - Donna Haraway

Judith Butler is one of the great minds of our generation and *Gender Trouble* should be on every short-list of contemporary gender theory.

This is a must read for anyone interested in learning more about homosexuality, gender and gender roles. Only disappointment with the book was the difficulty it presented for me to understand it! I think it is more for advanced readers in the subject so if you are not familiarized with the terms I suggest learning about her theory and the before mentioned concepts from a different author that better simplifies everything.

Judith Butler is well versed in feminist theology -- the only reason she didn't get all five stars from me is her writings are somewhat complex and require me to engage much more.

This is an academic text, make no buts about it, despite what she says in her intro that she feels it's accessible to everyone. Butler has also won awards for bad academic prose, so be careful--the thing is dense and wordy beyond belief and she references every major thinker of the past hundred or so years, so if you haven't read the entire works of Foucault, Freud, Lacan, Kristeva, and others, you might feel a little lost. The first 3/4ths of the book is basically responding to and debunking everything everyone else has said or tried to establish about gender. But it's still really good, and her final major thesis, the idea of performativity, is amazing; I might even venture to say life changing. So if you just want the cliff's notes, read the intro, the last chapter (even just the last section of the last chapter), and the conclusion, and you'll get the gist of it (and an idea how tough she can be to read) without having to slog through the whole thing. If you want to tackle the whole thing, be my guest, but I'd only recommend doing so if you really plan on using her for a specific purpose (like me, writing a term paper using her theory).

Routledge classics' website (and) list the page count for this ISBN as 272. The *new* copy I received with the *same ISBN* has 236 pages. My copy's back cover carries a distributor's information from New Delhi. Be aware of this, if need the same pagination as your class or book group.

Great ideas but very hard to follow. The writing style is one that I don't care for.

I'm no expert but I'm reminded of what a friend once confessed to me: it's hard talking about gender without it turning into a freak show. To her credit, Judith Butler speaks sincerely, with great subtlety, about a very touchy subject. Nevertheless, when you consider that words like "sex," "heterosexual," and "homosexual" are hardly a century old, you have to ask why do they seem so certain, so meaningful, so permanent and timeless? Why is it so hard to consider these words as concealing rather than revealing? In the tradition of Marx and Foucault, Butler begins to demystify their credibility and reveals how gender is something which is 'performative'. By this, she does not mean like a role which is donned (though those who do reveal) but rather as a repetitive, cultural activity from which identity is derived. This work is thought to be the beginning of 'queer theory.'

I suddenly realized I knew nothing about feminism.

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