

## GENDERED BODIES: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES

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State University of New York at Purchase

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For centuries the biological sciences have dissected, measured, and probed the human body as a product of nature. But from a feminist perspective, the human body is a social production. Human bodies are shaped and controlled by the norms and expectations of gendered social orders, intersected by racial, class, religious, and age norms and expectations. The result is a gendered body produced for a gendered social world.

In this concise text with readings, designed for undergraduate students, Lorber and Moore present feminist contributions to social and cultural studies of the human body, showing the construction of gendered bodies in different contexts. The authors argue that the ideology of the perfect body is a powerful means of social control for girls and boys as well as women and men. The authors show how children's bodies are gendered through games and sports—and shaped and modified throughout adulthood to meet social expectations.

GENDERED BODIES: Feminist Perspectives covers a very broad range of topics, such as men's bodies and masculinity norms, third-wave feminist menstrual activism, transgender and intersex, the male pill, the controversies over male circumcision and ritual genital cutting of girls, disabilities, war wounds in Iraq, torture, and suicide bombers.

Each chapter includes a list of key concepts, three readings, a critical summary, recommended books and articles, and internet sources. For the instructor, the book includes class exercises and a list of films with somatic themes.

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Imagine ... the world without gender