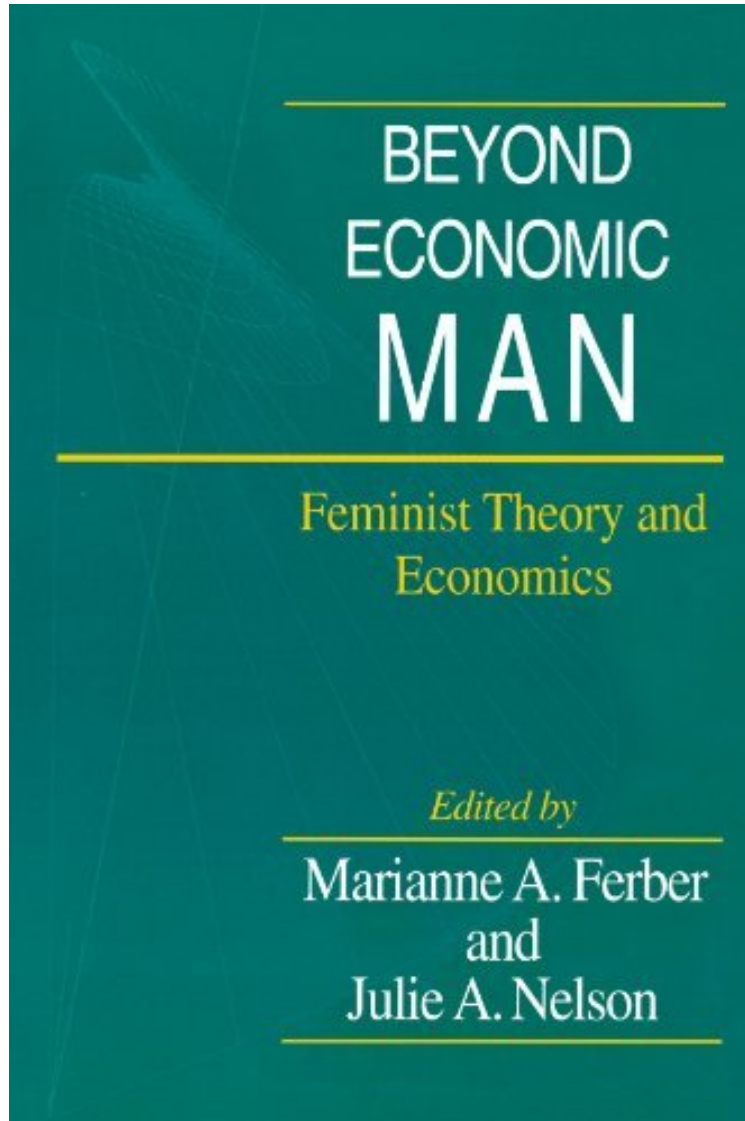


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## Beyond Economic Man: Feminist Theory and Economics

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**From University Of Chicago Press : Beyond Economic Man: Feminist Theory and Economics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Economic Man: Feminist Theory and Economics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fantastic ReadBy nan0ok"Beyond Economic Man" contains a half-dozen chapters, most of which are excellent and thought provoking. Although I have read a few economics books ("The Worldly Philosophers" and some others), I could follow these arguments because the authors clearly write their criticisms beginning by explaining the soon-to-be-criticized point of view.I bought this book on a whim. It's one of my favorite purchases.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Foundational text in feminist economicsBy A

readerThe articles in this volume - from England's piece on the "separative self," to Strassmann's work on the rhetoric of economics, to Nelson's work on the goal of economic theorizing - are classics in the field, essential reading for anyone interested in the subject of feminist economics. If only mainstream economics took this material more seriously . . . .1 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Methinks the ladies doth protest too muchBy Declan HayesThe best essay in this short collection is by Nobel prize winner Robert Solow, who points out the main fault of so called feminist economics: it is tangential stuff. This is obvious in reading the collection of essays which focus more on Institutional Economics (a branch of sociology), rhetoric, and anthropology. Most of the contributors buzz around the issue of the (patriarchal) family and use Gary Becker, another (very undeserving) Nobel prize winner as their whipping boy. But Becker's work on the economics of sleep and such like is also tangential.This slim tome strikes me as an exercise in academic vanity publishing. The inclusion of Donald McCloskey, who got a sex change operation since it was published, reinforces that. Economics has a myriad of failings and short comings but having it colonized by even softer and shallower social "sciences" is not the answer. The contributors devote some space to explaining that their type of work is regard as sciences in most languages, English being the big exception. That seems to be where they are at: kitchen arguments, ignoring facts and solid axioms in favor of doctrine.

This is the first book to examine the central tenets of economics from a feminist point of view. In these original essays, the authors suggest that the discipline of economics could be improved by freeing itself from masculine biases.Beyond Economic Man raises questions about the discipline not because economics is too objective but because it is not objective enough. The contributors—nine economists, a sociologist, and a philosopher—discuss the extent to which gender has influenced both the range of subjects economists have studied and the way in which scholars have conducted their studies. They investigate, for example, how masculine concerns underlie economists' concentration on market as opposed to household activities and their emphasis on individual choice to the exclusion of social constraints on choice. This focus on masculine interests, the contributors contend, has biased the definition and boundaries of the discipline, its central assumptions, and its preferred rhetoric and methods. However, the aim of this book is not to reject current economic practices, but to broaden them, permitting a fuller understanding of economic phenomena. These essays examine current economic practices in the light of a feminist understanding of gender differences as socially constructed rather than based on essential male and female characteristics. The authors use this concept of gender, along with feminist readings of rhetoric and the history of science, as well as postmodernist theory and personal experience as economists, to analyze the boundaries, assumptions, and methods of neoclassical, socialist, and institutionalist economics. The contributors are Rebecca M. Blank, Paula England, Marianne A. Ferber, Nancy Folbre, Ann L. Jennings, Helen E. Longino, Donald N. McCloskey, Julie A. Nelson, Robert M. Solow, Diana Strassmann, and Rhonda M. Williams.

From the Back CoverThis is the first book to examine the central tenets of economics from a feminist point of view. In these original essays, the authors suggest that the discipline of economics could be improved by freeing itself from masculine biases. They discuss how gender, understood as socially constructed rather than based on essential male and female characteristics, has influenced both the range of subjects economists have studied and their methods of analysis.About the AuthorJulie A. Nelson is Professor of Economics and Department Chair at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Senior Research Fellow at the Global Development and Environment Institute of Tufts University and the author of Economics for Humans.