

BOOK REVIEW

Sexism and Science

BY EVELYN REED

Reviewed by: Mary Mallory, Tozzer Library, Harvard University

In this collection of essays, Reed attempts to show how pseudoscientific postulations and sexist prejudices have obscured the truths and distorted the facts discovered in certain sciences: namely, anthropology, biology, primatology, sociobiology, and sociology.

Although not disparaging what she considers genuine discoveries, she makes a valiant slashing effort to reduce some “reactionary” giants (Robert Ardrey, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Lionel Tiger) to windmills. Reed has a certain flair with terminology and a fresh iconoclastic lack of academic decorum. She is knowledgeable in the disciplines under discussion.

Overall the book is a stimulating corrective to establishment academic doctrine and popular scientific vagaries. Recommended for scientific, women’s, as well as nonspecialist collections.