

Re: verb gender

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-07/msg00999.html>

- *From:* Ron Hardin <rhhardin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 27 Jul 2005 15:49:44 GMT
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Brian M. Scott wrote:

>> The prediction is that the women will drop out when they
>> find you can't do work at the highest levels without
>> giving up everything else; a requirement that large
>> numbers of males are perfectly happy with.
>
> 'The prediction', eh? I can see why no one wants to take
> responsibility for it, though.

You sense a moral component. We are all as neuter as pine boards at bottom, is the assumption, and it figures into your projections. Call it the null hypothesis, or the way it ought to be even if it isn't.

It's sort of a prescriptive grammar of sex.

The puzzle is how things actually are, as a poet would be interested in it.

How is it that girls ride horses and boys drop out around puberty?
Or that men do math happily, coming in every weekend and holiday to putz around with it as a hobby even though it's a job, and women don't?

The hard line feminist answer is that something's wrong and men have to change to fix it, in the form of this or that moral complaint. Marching under the banner of morality though is perhaps not a good fit.

Perhaps the increasing number of women PhD's in math means increasing unhappiness, did you think of that? How would we tell?

<http://home.att.net/~rhhardin9/vickihearne.womenmath.txt>

<http://home.att.net/~rhhardine/vickihearne.feminism.txt>

those being bits from Vicki Hearne I've copied out for this or that reason; Stanley Cavell is another philosopher who is hitting on sexual difference as one of the points of Shakespeare, with the differing forms of (male) skepticism and (female) fanaticism, the one being the drive to know beyond human forms of knowing, and the other being the drive to love beyond human forms of loving. He adds ``Is this news?''

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It's not anti-feminist or anti-woman to try to get it right.

The hysteria at Harvard is enough of a proof that something fundamental is involved in getting with the program. Questions that must not be raised are the most interesting.

—
Ron Hardin
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On the internet, nobody knows you're a jerk.

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 ◇ *From:* Brian M. Scott

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