The Gender Gap in College: Maximizing the Developmental Potential of Women and Men (Jossey-Bass Higher and Adult Education) by Linda J. Sax

Compelling Work

Drawing on data from a sample of approximately 17,000 male and female students that represent 200 institutions, The Gender Gap in College examines the impact of college experiences, peer groups, and faculty on a comprehensive array of student outcomes. Author Linda Sax's approach is unique because she directly examines the interaction between gender and a variety of college experiences, a major inquiry which addresses the fundamental “individualization” question: do women and men respond differently to a given educational experience? The areas covered in the book include academic achievement, self-concept, life goals, career development, physical and emotional health, political and social attitudes, and satisfaction with college.

My Personal Review:
This book provides critical insight into a fascinating piece of the gender puzzle: how postsecondary environments and experiences affect women's and men's development. The data and analyses are impressive, and presented in a helpful and clear format; the beauty of the book is the immediate and direct applicability to policies and practices in education (and even in the workplace). An industry would be served well by having a sharper understanding of interaction effects). I am finding that this is my new go-to reference for work on gender and higher education! These data are absolutely key to thinking about ways in which our institutions both reproduce and transform gender inequities.

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