2013


Amanda J. Swygart-Hobaugh, M.L.S., Ph.D., Georgia State University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/amanda_swygart-hobaugh/28/
notes, a cumulative resource list, and ample indexing round out the book. African American women from adolescents to elders would benefit from *Health FIRST!* There is encouragement throughout for intergenerational dialogue, so parents and caregivers should feel confident in sharing this information with their teenagers. Although *Health FIRST!* does not provide comprehensive coverage of women's health—providing only limited coverage of prenatal health and pregnancy, for example—it is thorough and offers important information on neglected topics like reproductive coercion. It also provides the most recent coverage of African American women's health; previous titles on the subject are at least a dozen years old and appear to cover a more narrow age spectrum.

*Health First!* is an excellent resource for African American women and for those who care for and about them and their health.

[†Gabrielle M. Toth is an associate professor, reference and instruction librarian, and coordinator of the government information collection at Chicago State University.]

**MEDIA**


Reviewed by Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh

In its 150 entries, this encyclopedia not only examines the social construction of gender via the media and its influential theorists, but also considers the power dynamics and structure engendered in the male-dominated ownership and workforce of the media. A helpful reader's guide at the beginning of the volume categorizes the entries as biographies, concepts and theories, discrimination and media effects, internet and new media, media industry, media modes, media portrayals and representations, and policy and advocacy.

A feminist/critical perspective permeates this work and is reflected in the entries on noted feminist theorists/activists (e.g., Susan Bordo, bell hooks, Jean Kilbourne, Gloria Steinem, Kathleen Hanna) and various concepts, theories, and media critique perspectives (e.g., for "male gaze," there are seven entries on different feminist theoretical perspectives, and multiple entries on beauty and body image and gender and femininity). The work also branches out, however, to cover other relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts for examining gender in media (discourse analysis, queer theory, semiotics), and does not ignore constructions of masculinity and LGBTQ representations in media. Likewise, it is inclusive in terms of what "media" are examined, from more traditional modes (e.g., print news and magazines, radio, television, and film) to "internet and new media" (e.g., social networking, virtual reality worlds).

The entries themselves are accessible and well-written, with further readings suggested for each topic and cross-referencing to other relevant entries. A resource guide at the end lists 75 books, 46 journals, and 34 Internet resources for further perusal, and the appendix lists websites with editorial commentary regarding their relevance for research on gender in media.

Generally, the work is comprehensive and thorough. However, an omission of particular note is the lack of a dedicated entry (or any mention in the resource guide) about Erving Goffman’s 1979 *Gender in Advertisements*, a seminal work examining gender representation in advertising. Likewise, inclusion of the journals *Gender & Society* and *Media, Culture, & Society* to the Resource Guide would be warranted, given the work’s topic. Notwithstanding these limitations, I would recommend this encyclopedia for addition to reference collections serving communications, women’s/gender/sexuality studies, and sociology disciplines, as it offers an accessible introduction to gender in media studies.

Note


[†Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh is the librarian for sociology, anthropology, and gerontology at Georgia State University.]

**SCOTTISH WOMEN’S WRITING**


Reviewed by Susan Wood

Edited and with an introduction by Dr. Glenda Norquay, whose research interests include Robert Louis Stevenson and Scottish and British women’s suffrage writing, *The Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Women’s Writing* provides readers with an accessible introduction to approximately five

Feminist Collections (v. 34, nos. 1–2, Winter–Spring 2013)