



## Evolution's Empress: Darwinian Perspectives on the Nature of Women

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### Evolution's Empress: Darwinian Perspectives on the Nature of Women From Oxford University Press

Over the last decade, there has been increasing debate as to whether feminism and evolutionary psychology can co-exist. Such debates often conclude with a resounding "no," often on the grounds that the former is a political movement while the latter is a field of scientific inquiry. In the midst of these debates, there has been growing dissatisfaction within the field of evolutionary psychology about the way the discipline (and others) have repeatedly shown women to be in passive roles when it comes to survival and reproduction. Evolutionary behavioral research has made significant strides in the past few decades, but continues to take for granted many theoretical assumptions that are perhaps, in light of the most recent evidence, misguided. As a result, the research community has missed important areas of research, and in some cases, will likely come to inaccurate conclusions based on existing dogma, rather than rigorous, theoretically driven research. Bias in the field of evolutionary psychology echoes the complaints against the political movement attached to academic feminisms. This is an intellectual squabble where much is at stake, including a fundamental understanding of the evolutionary significance of women's roles in culture, mothering, reproductive health and physiology, mating, female alliances, female aggression, and female intrasexual competition.

*Evolution's Empress* identifies women as active agents within the evolutionary process. The chapters in this volume focus on topics as diverse as female social interactions, mate competition and mating strategies, motherhood, women's health, sex differences in communication and motivation, sex discrimination, and women in literature. The volume editors bring together a diverse range of perspectives to demonstrate ways in which evolutionary approaches to human behavior have thus far been too limited. By reconsidering the role of women in evolution, this volume furthers the goal of generating dialogue between the realms of women's studies and evolutionary psychology.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Who should read *Evolution's Empress*? Unquestionably, anyone in the field of evolutionary psychology (or parallel specialties in anthropology and biology) would want to have the book. Indeed, I would go out on a limb and say that it would have to be included in the top tier of contemporary books in the field. Beyond these professionals, the book's readability makes its content accessible to any person interested in the latest thoughts on the nature of human nature. It really is that good." -- *PsycCRITIQUES*

#### About the Author

**Maryanne L. Fisher, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and member of the Women and Gender Studies program at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Canada.

**Justin R. Garcia, M.S., Ph.D.**, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies and Research Scientist at The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction at Indiana University, Bloomington.

**Rosemarie Sokol Chang, Ph.D.**, is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology at State University of New York at New Paltz.

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