



Pythagoras's Trousers: God, Physics, and the Gender War

By Margaret Wertheim

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A spirited look at the relationship between physics and religion?and the implications for both sexes.

Here is a fresh, astute social and cultural history of physics, from ancient Greece to our own time. From its inception, Margaret Wertheim shows, physics has been an overwhelmingly male-dominated activity; she argues that gender inequity in physics is a result of the religious origins of the enterprise.

Pythagoras' Trousers is a highly original history of one of science's most powerful disciplines. It is also a passionate argument for the need to involve both women and men in the process of shaping the technologies from the next generation of physicists.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Fascinating. . . . A delight to read, and highly informative.” (Keith Devlin - Nature)

“Smart, bold, and provocative. . . . Sure to evoke even more interest than it does controversy.” (Evelyn Fox Keller, professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, author of *Reflections on Gender and Science*)

“Remarkable. . . . A fascinating journey through the intellectual history that has shaped our current post-modern, scientific, and religious culture.” (J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, Princeton Theological Seminary)

“[An] immensely accessible tour. . . . How the physics lab became another Vatican with a no-girls-allowed sign on its door.” (Susan Faludi, author of *Backlash*)

From the Inside Flap

This astute social and cultural history of physics explores how the development of physics has been intertwined with the rising power of institutionalized religion, and how both these predominantly masculine pursuits have influenced women's ability to join the physics community, the science itself, and the picture of reality it portrays.

About the Author

Margaret Wertheim is a science journalist and commentator and author of the book Pythagoras' Trousers.

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