

# New From Open University Press

## GENDER AND THE CHANGING FACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### A Feminized Future?

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A notable feature of higher education in many countries over the last few decades has been the dramatic rise in the proportion of female students. Women now outnumber men as undergraduate students in the majority of OECD countries, fuelling concerns that men are deserting degree-level study as women overtake them both numerically and in terms of levels of achievement. The assertion is that higher education is becoming increasingly 'feminized' - reflecting similar claims in relation to schooling and the labour market. At the same time, there are persistent concerns about degree standards, with allegations of 'dumbing down'. This raises questions about whether the higher education system to which more women have gained access is now of less value, both intrinsically and in terms of labour market outcomes, than previously.

This ground-breaking book examines these issues in relation to higher education in the UK and globally. It provides a thorough analysis of debates about 'feminization', asking:

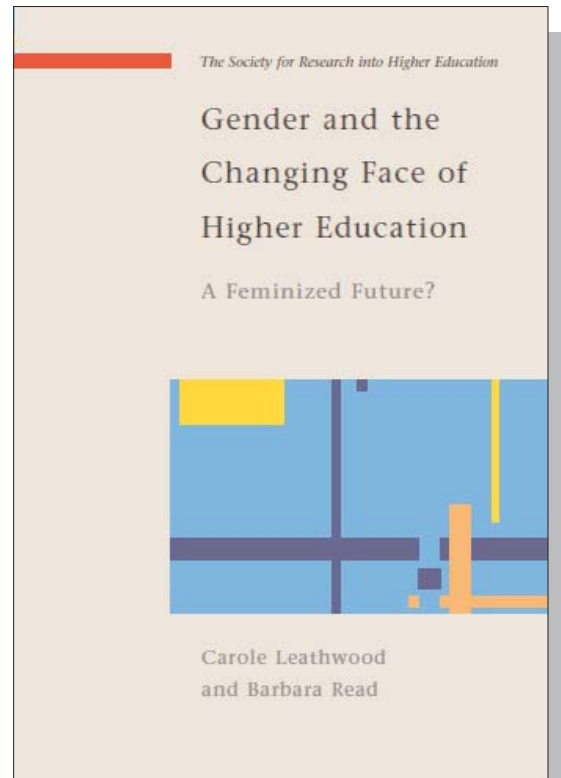
- To what extent do patterns of participation continue to reflect and (re)construct wider social inequalities of gender, social class and ethnicity?
- How far has a numerical increase in women students challenged the cultures, curriculum and practices of the university?
- What are the implications for women, men and the future of higher education?

Drawing on international and national data, theory and research, *Gender and the Changing Face of Higher Education* provides an accessible but nuanced discussion of the 'feminization' of higher education for postgraduates, policy-makers and academics working in the field.

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