Mismeasures

1. Man = norm, woman = lesser
2. Man = norm, woman = opposite but better
3. Men’s experiences account for everyone’s experiences
1. Man = norm, woman = lesser

- Man as the basis for comparison
  “Women have more difficulty developing a ‘separate sense of self’ than men”
  Vs.
  “Men have more difficulty forming and maintaining attachments than women”

- Hormones
2. Man = norm, woman = opposite but better

- Cultural feminism
- Women are kinder, more peaceful, more connected with nature and care-giving – they are the “solution”
Nope

1 and 2 both assume that there are profound inherent differences between men and women, but there is no more true evidence for one stance than for the other.
Brain Function

- Long history of brain research to find the source of male superiority
- Left vs. right hemispheres
- *Science* and Ruth Bleier
3. Men’s experiences = everyone’s experiences

• Medical
To truly understand experiences of gender we look:

• Outward at gender in context – what environmental factors, societal expectations, **power dynamics** etc. shape gender?

• Inward at gender as narrative – how do different genders perceive, interpret and respond to life?
Where do narratives come from and what is the cost?

• Rape and child sexual abuse

• Personal experience with political implications worthy of collective action-----→ individual problems
Looking forward

• Complexities of gender can’t defined by the snapshot provided in a study
• Avoid polarizing traits into opposites and applying them to different groups
• Observe how qualities, skills and behaviors change over lifespans and understand the factors that cause those changes
• Set aside preconceptions and listen to the stories people tell
• Develop a model of equality that is not based on the necessity of complete sameness (pregnancy)
• Keep striving for safety, respect and opportunity for all