Les autres articles abordent des thèmes divers (spécificité éventuelle du cerveau féminin par Freda Newcombe et Graham Radcliff ; tabous relatifs aux épouses en Mongolie, par Caroline Humphrey ; statut de la femme dans la Grèce contemporaine par Renée Hirschon, etc.) qui contribuent à cerner, en multipliant les éclairages, les objectifs définis dans l’introduction par Shirley Ardener.

Suzanne Lallemand


The goal of science—to be able to understand, explain, predict, and control the behavior of the subject of study—has for too long been thwarted where female activities, ideologies, psychology, and biology are concerned due to male dominance of the sciences. *Women Cross-Culturally. Change and Challenge* is a remarkable contribution to the sciences in that it corrects many existing misconceptions while simultaneously providing an impressive body of new data with explanatory value that brings the professions a great deal closer to a scientific explanation of women and the relationships which obtain between females, their societies, and their cultures. Reliability of the data and insights is perhaps enhanced by the fact that about half of the articles included in the book are written by women who are native of the countries they are writing about.

The interdisciplinary approach of the book, requisite to a scientific explanation of women, makes it a landmark in its field. The contributors represent a wide range of professions: anthropology, political science, sociology, literature, history, and economics, to name a few.

The book is outstanding in its approach to a truly cross-cultural investigation of women. It contains one of the few, if not the only anthology by an anthropologist that has a large section on women’s status in the United States. Other contributions investigate women’s status and movements as gatherer-hunters, peasants, textile workers, miners, servants, craftworkers, prostitutes, housewives, mothers, and professional women. The status of women in capitalist countries is compared to their status in socialist countries. The peculiar difficulties and some advantages of women anthropologists are well discussed, by describing their status as students, fieldworkers, teachers, spouses, and important contributors to the theory and methodology of their field. The book is fairly global in its approach, as well. Included in the countries discussed are Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zaire, Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Peru, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Soviet Union, China, Cuba, Chile, Israel, Sweden, Barbados, Morocco, and Alaska.

The editor’s conclusive chapter is a brilliantly conceived encapsulation and integration of the great variety of data and theory in the book. This integration, and her own insights, combine to produce a unified theoretical base.

Rose Oldfield Hayes


Heleieth Saffioti is a contemporary pioneer in the theory and research of women’s status and roles. Her book, *Women in Class Society*, published in English in 1978, was actually written twelve years earlier, when the women’s movement in North America