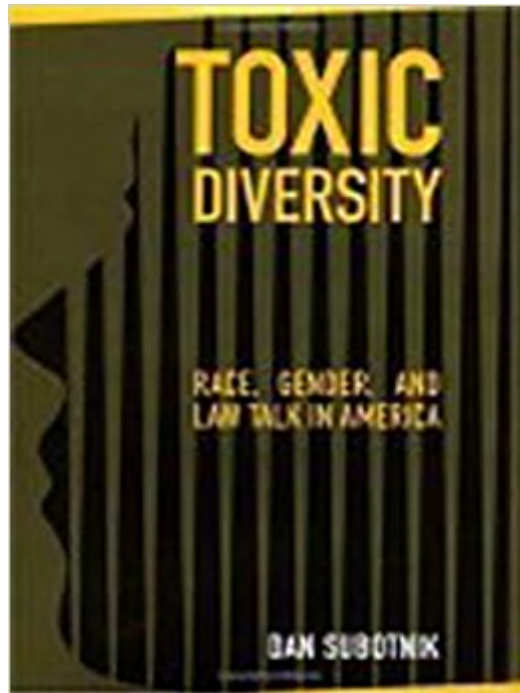




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Toxic Diversity: Race, Gender, And Law Talk In America



Synopsis

Toxic Diversity offers an invigorating view of race, gender, and law in America. Analyzing the work of preeminent legal scholars such as Patricia Williams, Derrick Bell, Lani Guinier, and Richard Delgado, Dan Subotnik argues that race and gender theorists poison our social and intellectual environment by almost deliberately misinterpreting racial interaction and data and turning white males into victimizers. Far from energizing women and minorities, Subotnik concludes, theorists divert their energies from implementing America's social justice agenda. Insisting, in the words of James Baldwin, that "not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced," and that thoughtful Americans regardless of race and gender can handle frank conversations about difficult topics, Subotnik's critique of race and gender theory pulls no punches as it confronts such inflammatory issues as single parenthood, the merit system in academic and business settings, gender privilege in the classroom, and crime.

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Customer Reviews

Just to be clear, this book provides countless examples of affirmative action's methods and

consequences for minorities (mostly black) and women. Affirmative action rules are supposedly for the BENEFIT of out-groups, but the policies work toward their detriment. Dan Subotnik plays devil's advocate in exposing these consequences. And he does it with panache: mocking the mockable and ridiculing the ridiculous while holding people to their own professed standards.

Delicious.[Another great book on this topic is Harry Stein's "no matter what, they'll call this book racist." Both are good. That book deals exclusively with race; this book by Subotnik also treats sex discrimination through affirmative action for women. Written in 2005, before we had quite so many sexes to discriminate in favor of. (Ha)]Dan Subotnik exposes the big lies and the big truths.

Lowering standards to achieve diversity goals leads to ill-prepared students and skeptical employers. Thomas Sowell has done the heavy lifting here, and Walter Williams, too, but this book looks specifically at law school admissions and graduation rates. Excellent writing and reasoning. The social commentary in the book is well worthwhile, especially the chapters on critical race theory, and the chapter on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. So many funny examples of feminist academic writing! Stop discriminating on the basis of race and sex. America should be an aristocracy of merit, a country with middle-class values. Affirmative action breeds and rewards mediocrity.

Professor Subotnik gives a very sane and thoroughly researched discourse on the current trend in race and gender relations. Have women and minorities parlayed their victimization into a status that allows them to discriminate, victimize, badmouth, and even worse, with impunity? Does past victimization require retribution in perpetuity? These are some of the questions he addresses with wit, humor, and the odd French or Latin phrase. Occasionally the book borders on intellectual elitism, but this can be forgiven as on the whole it is quite accessible and altogether a good read. This is not a book for those who shun "politically incorrect" speech or who still believe that past victimization legitimizes reverse discrimination and worse. It is a book for all those looking to gain some insight into the whys and hows of race relations today and some of the steps that can be taken to help swing the pendulum back to center.

The thoroughness with which Prof. Subotnik explores the multiple (and often self contradictory) facets of the race-&gender-critic arguments, and questions the motives of those who put them forward, is impressive. His method of presenting counter-arguments by quoting third parties with impeccable race-&gender credentials neatly deflects the standard "don't listen to him, he's just a typical white / male racist / chauvinist" response. And the humour which runs merrily throughout the

text helps clarify the issues he raises, as well as making the book highly readable. Reading this from a British viewpoint, it's hard to understand how so many ideas which seem misconceived or just plain barmy could have become so firmly entrenched in American academic institutions - places one would like to think of as havens of enlightened rationality. But of course, it's starting to happen in the UK too, and our Government's plans to legislate against "incitement to religious hatred" could exacerbate the existing confusion over "racism" law. We too have our race-awareness industry (mostly NGO-based rather than in universities) and here too the personal interests of this industry's leaders may often be seen to lie in obfuscation rather than clarity, and in making race relations worse rather than better. This book should be required reading for anyone interested in race-relations and the question of how to set about improving them.

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