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Introduction: Women in science: Why so few? -- The science career pipeline -- Women and science: Athena bound -- Gender, sex, and science -- Selective access -- Critical transitions in the graduate and post-graduate career path -- Women's (and men's) graduate experience in science -- The paradox of critical mass for women in science -- The "kula ring" of scientific success -- Women's faculty experience -- Dual male and female worlds of science -- Differences between women in science -- Social capital and faculty network relationships -- Negative and positive departmental cultures -- Initiatives for departmental change -- International comparisons --

Athena unbound: policy for women in science.

Sommario/riassunto

Why are there so few women scientists? Persisting differences between women's and men's experiences in science make this question as relevant today as it ever was. This book sets out to answer this question, and to propose solutions for the future. Based on extensive research, it emphasizes that science is an intensely social activity. Despite the scientific ethos of universalism and inclusion, scientists and their institutions are not immune to the prejudices of society as a whole. By presenting women's experiences at all key career stages - from childhood to retirement - the authors reveal the hidden barriers, subtle exclusions and unwritten rules of the scientific workplace, and the effects, both professional and personal, that these have on the female scientist. This important book should be read by all scientists - both male and female - and sociologists, as well as women thinking of embarking on a scientific career.