

Philosophy 3334 Spring 2020

Reading questions #12

Due Tues, April 21 (by 11:59pm) uploaded to Blackboard [though anytime later is perfectly fine]

Watch John Gray's "Mars brain, Venus brain" TED talk here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuM7ZS7nodk>

1) Does anything that John Gray says sound wrong to you? Like what? What if he qualified his statement by saying 'men more often than women are ...' or 'men tend to ... usually...'. Now do you think anything he says is wrong?

2) Read the APA statement on gender differences. They say "Hyde observed that across the dozens of studies, consistent with the gender similarities hypothesis, gender differences had either no or a very small effect on most of the psychological variables examined. Only a few main differences appeared: Compared with women, men could throw farther, were more physically aggressive, masturbated more, and held more positive attitudes about sex in uncommitted relationships."

Think of all of the mental, psychological, and emotional variation between people. List at least three things that you would expect to have significant differences between men and women on average (don't include obvious physical differences or things resulting from them). How sure are you that there would be a difference? Do you think that these differences are natural, innate differences? Or due to social factors?

-- If you really think that there aren't any such differences, then instead, think of beliefs or preferences that you think differ between men and women on average (political beliefs, moral beliefs, favorite movies or music, etc.). What do you think the explanation for the differences are?