

Key Points from Stewart

Premise of book: People can live and act together only by creating social arrangements that make them predictable and trustworthy.

1. Explanations of sex differences that argue that biology makes men and women act differently are wrong, but so are explanations that claim that culture provides sex roles that “make people do what they do.”

2. Biology, society and culture are cultural resources that people may or may not use.

Similarly, Swidler argues that culture is a “tool kit.”

3. One of the reasons men have limited the behavior range of women is because it is one way of “managing problems of living and acting together.”

4. People who reject these traditional social arrangements have to create new ones that allow men and women to live together as equals.

5. People can't create alternatives until they realize that they have responsibility for social life, e.g., that it is socially constructed.