

The Psychological Development of Girls and Women



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In this book, Sheila Greene presents a challenging new perspective on the psychological development of girls and women that emphasizes the central role of time in human development. She critically reviews traditional and contemporary theoretical approaches - ranging from orthodox psychoanalysis to relational and post-modern theories--and argues that even those claiming to be focused on development have presented a view of women's lives as fixed and determined by their nature or their past. These theories, she believes, should be rejected because of their inherent lack of validity and their frequently oppressive implications for women.

Greene's approach places primary importance on temporality itself and on the competing discourses on time, age and development that play an active role in the construction of the lives of girls and women. Essential but often neglected insights from the more compelling developmental and feminist theories are woven together within a theoretical framework that emphasizes temporality, emergence and human agency. The result is a liberating theory of women's psychological development as constantly emerging and changing in time rather than as static and fixed by their

nature, socio-cultural context and personal history.

Psychological Development in Girls and Women will be essential reading for students and researchers in the psychology of women, developmental psychology and women's studies.

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