



George Eliot and Herbert Spencer: Feminism, Evolutionism, and the Reconstruction of Gender (Paperback)

By Nancy L. Paxton

Princeton University Press, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This analysis of the writings of two major Victorian intellectuals examines the crucial place of gender in the larger Victorian debate about nature, religion, and evolutionary theory. Demonstrating the primacy of Herbert Spencer's influence on George Eliot's thought, Nancy Paxton discloses the continuous dialogue between this profoundly learned novelist and one of the most formidable and influential scientific authorities of her time. Using rarely cited first editions of Spencer's published works, Paxton reveals that Eliot and Spencer initially agreed in supporting several of the goals of early Victorian feminism when they met in 1851. Paxton surveys all of Spencer's writing to show when and why he repudiated his early feminism and demonstrates Eliot's determined resistance to the most conservative tendencies of evolutionary theory in her representation of female sexuality, motherhood, feminist ambition, and desire. In comparing Eliot's and Spencer's evolutionary reconstruction of gender, the book draws on a wide variety of biographical, literary, and critical texts and on interdisciplinary scholarship about the relation between scientific and literary discourse in the nineteenth century. By thus reassessing Eliot's contribution...



READ ONLINE
[4.44 MB]

Reviews

It is in a single of the most popular ebook. It really is simplified but excitement in the fifty percent from the pdf. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

-- Joy Langosh

This published book is wonderful. It is one of the most incredible book we have go through. I realized this pdf from my i and dad advised this book to learn.

-- Felicia Heidenreich