

Holmes, B. (2012) *Gender: Antiquity and Its Legacy (Ancients and Moderns)* I. B. Tauris (London) and Oxford University Press (New York), Re pr. Bloomsbury.

This book stages a series of encounters between the modern concept of gender and ancient Greco-Roman concepts of masculinity, femininity, and the sexed body. It begins by narrating the evidence for concepts of sexual difference in antiquity and reading the subject's history through a critical analysis of "nature," demonstrating Greek philosophy's role in some of the most tenacious assumptions about sexual difference in traditions of thought extending to the present. It then analyzes the role of Greco-Roman antiquity in the history of sexuality and queer theory and the 1990s "sexuality wars" in the field, before looking to the entwinement of sex, gender, and sexuality in a range of ancient sources. Finally, it takes up feminist engagements with Greco-Roman myth, exploring antiquity's implication in accounts of gender in modern and postmodern political thought.