**Gender Attitude and Belief Inventory (GABI)**

Directions: Carefully read each of the following statements, choose the answer (1-4) that best represents your opinion, and write the number on the appropriate blank on the answer sheet. Some statements are purposely worded so that they represent an “extreme” point of view. Think about the statements and answer them honestly with the answer choice that most closely matches your personal opinion. After you have answered all 45 questions, refer to the instructions on the last page for scoring the GABI and understanding what your scores mean.

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1. Gender inequality can never be eliminated because of biological differences between men and women.

2. Men’s and women’s gender roles today are determined by the way that gender roles evolved for survival in hunting and gathering societies.

3. A man’s first responsibility is obtaining economic success, while his wife’s first responsibility is caring for the home and family.

4. Men need to be liberated from gender stereotypes as much as women do.

5. Capitalism is responsible for the increased divorce rate and the general breakdown of families.

6. Women are oppressed by both capitalism and patriarchy.

7. Men’s control over women forces women to be the primary caretakers of children.

8. Having women in positions of political power would bring about new systems of government that promote peace and cooperation.

9. Women’s oppression will continue as long as women and men live together.

10. Women of color face additional oppression (race and gender) in the workplace.

11. Drag performances (i.e., drag queens and drag kings) blur gender boundaries, thus revealing the true range of possible genders.

12. Natural differences between men and women determine the different gender roles men and women occupy in society.

13. The behavior that prehistoric humans needed to survive is still ingrained in our genes in men’s roaming and sexual promiscuity and in women’s nesting, nurturing and sexual loyalty.
14. The breakdown of the traditional family structure caused many of the evils in our society.

15. Social change for sexual equality will best come about by education and legal changes.

16. Class is more important than gender in explaining why women have not achieved equal leadership with men in society.

17. Women’s low pay in “traditionally female jobs” (i.e., nursing and teaching) is a result of both gender and class inequalities.

18. Unlike women, men are not oppressed in our society.

19. Women’s experience with caring for babies, cleaning, feeding people, etc. gives them a clearer vision of reality than that of men.

20. Women’s lives would be improved if they lived professionally and personally independent from men.

21. We cannot truly fight for gender equality without also fighting for racial equality.

22. Gender is not natural; it is created as we do it—in the ways we dress, talk, behave, and use our bodies.

23. Real biological differences (such as anatomy, brain “wiring,” and hormones) between men and women make traditional gender arrangements either inevitable or, at least, preferable.

24. Whereas men are interested in having many short-term sexual encounters, women are selective in choosing a long-term sexual partner.

25. Boys should be taught to be rational, competitive and self-assured to prepare them to enter the paid labor force and girls should be taught emotional qualities and sensitivity to others to prepare them for child rearing.

26. Regardless of biological differences between men and women, there should not be different gender roles for men and women because of the importance of personal choice—individual rights, such as liberty, justice and equality of opportunity.

27. Capitalism oppresses women because they are not paid for housework and childcare.

28. Women’s oppression is inseparable from class oppression; therefore, to end gender inequality, both capitalism and patriarchy must be abolished.

29. Gender stereotypes are only one symptom of the larger system of patriarchal power, which is the true source of women’s oppression.
30. The current male-oriented society should be transformed toward a more female-oriented society, which would emphasize “women’s values” such as peace, gentleness, and caring for others.

31. Strong women know when they need to live separately from men.

32. In order to understand gender roles and gender inequality in society, we must consider race, ethnicity, and social class—not only gender.

33. We should not only tolerate, but encourage difference and multiplicity (as life is constantly changing) in the possible range of genders.

34. Along with the biological fact that women give birth, women’s hormones (i.e., estrogen, progesterone, and prolactin) are one of the key reasons women are the primary nurturers and caretakers of children.

35. Women choose mates who are willing and able to invest resources in them and their children in order to provide protection and other material advantages that increase their ability to survive and reproduce.

36. Families operate better if they have complementary roles, differentiated by gender—not parental androgyny.

37. Men and women should be treated in a gender-neutral way, especially under the law.

38. It is not men, but the capitalist system, that are the primary enemies of women.

39. It is both the capitalist system and men’s control over women that forces women to be the primary caretakers of children.

40. Men prevent women from being leaders in government and business through men’s control of political and economic institutions.

41. Bringing more women into male-dominated professions would make these professions less ruthless, aggressive, and competitive.

42. Women’s bonds with one another are deeper and more intense than their bonds with men.

43. Talk about power for women overlooks the need to empower people of all races and ethnicities.

44. Equality will come when we recognize the diverse range of possible sexes, so that one can no longer be seen as inferior and the other superior.

45. I consider myself a feminist.
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Steps for scoring the GABI (Gender Attitude and Belief Inventory):

Note: Don’t read these scoring instructions until after you’ve answered the 45 questions and recorded your responses on the answer sheet.

1. Add the numbers across the 11 rows on your answer sheet (for example, add the number in the blank for statements 1 + 12 + 23 + 34) and write the totals off to the right of each row.

2. Write the names for the theoretical perspectives beside the total for each row:
   1. Physiological (1, 12, 23 & 34)
   2. Sociobiological (2, 13, 24 & 35)
   3. Structural functionalist (3, 14, 25 & 36)
   4. Liberal feminist (4, 15, 26 & 37)
   5. Marxist feminist (5, 16, 27 & 38)
   6. Socialist feminist (6, 17, 28 & 39)
   7. Radical feminist (7, 18, 29 & 40)
   8. Cultural feminist (8, 19, 30 & 41)
   9. Separatist feminist (9, 20, 31 & 42)
  10. Multicultural, Multiracial or Black feminist or Womanist (10, 21, 32 & 43)
  11. Post-modern feminist (11, 22, 33 & 44)

The numbers in parentheses are the question numbers that include statements for each perspective. For example, Physiological theorists’ viewpoints include those stated in questions 1, 12, 23 & 34.

3. Use the following ranges to determine how closely your views align with those of these theoretical perspectives:
   - 15-16 strong alliance with the views of the theory
   - 12-14 your views align with the views of the theory
   - 6-8 disagreement between your views and those of the theory
   - 4-5 strong disagreement between your views and those of the theory

   A score of 9-11 is neutral, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the perspective.

4. Question #45 does not fit in any of these 11 individual perspectives, but is related to all of the feminist perspectives (#4-11 in the list above). Think about and jot down your ideas about self-labeling (i.e. publicly identifying with a label) versus holding viewpoints that are consistent with those of a theory. Why might someone choose to call themselves a “feminist”? Why might they not want to claim the label?

GABI was created by Janice McCabe and Brian Powell, Copyright 2008. Some statements were adapted from the Feminist Perspectives Scale, Copyright 1989, 1997 by Nancy M. Henley. Please share this instrument; all we ask is that you give us credit!
Short Descriptions of Theoretical Perspectives on GABI

Below are very brief overviews of each of the eleven theories on GABI. Two useful sources for additional information about these theories are *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction* by Rosemarie Tong and *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics* by Judith Lorber.

**Physiological** theorists believe that biological differences determine the social differences between men and women. They often focus on biological differences dealing with reproduction, hormones, or the brain.

**Sociobiological** theorists believe that men and women’s social roles have evolved over time as to best help them pass on their genes. Different strategies are beneficial to men and to women since they face different challenges to successful reproduction. This perspective is sometimes referred to as *evolutionary psychology*.

**Structural functionalist** theorists believe that society is a system of complementary parts which work to maintain the whole; gender helps to structure social life by providing complementary roles for men and women. Boys and men are socialized to be instrumental while girls and women are socialized to be expressive. It is efficient for society that these different roles are present in each (heterosexual) family.

Each of the next eight theories (i.e., the feminist theories) refers to “inequalities” rather than “differences,” as the first three theories did. They all believe gender is an important distinction in society, men and women are unequal in society (in other words, sexism and patriarchy exist), and these inequalities can and should be changed; however, they differ in important ways as explained below.

**Liberal feminists** believe that men and women both are disadvantaged by society’s gender expectations. They advocate working within institutions to “level the playing field” through changing laws, education, and socialization to bring about gender equality.

**Marxist feminists** believe that the oppression of women stems primarily from capitalism, which exploits women’s labor and is upheld through women’s unpaid domestic labor. They believe that economic inequalities are the most central form of inequality. Therefore, eliminating capitalism would get rid of gender inequalities.

**Socialist feminists** believe that women’s oppression is inseparable from class oppression. Therefore, to bring about gender equality, we must work to eliminate both capitalism and patriarchy.

**Radical feminists** believe that women are oppressed by our patriarchal society. They do not believe that men are oppressed. They seek a fundamental reorganization of society because our existing political and social organization is inherently patriarchal.
Separatist feminists, like radical feminists, believe that women are oppressed by our patriarchal society. They, however, believe that we can’t get rid of this problem if women and men are together. In order to achieve equality, women need to separate themselves from men. Some believe this is a temporary stage while others see this as a permanent goal.

Cultural feminists, like radical feminists, believe that women are oppressed by our patriarchal society. They, however, focus on empowering women through valuing, emphasizing, and encouraging the positive qualities traditionally associated with women, such as nurturance, caring, cooperation, relationships with others, childbirth, morality, peace, pureness, and women’s connection to nature and the earth.

Multicultural feminists believe that many inequalities are important in society today, not only gender. In addition to gender inequalities, they focus on race, ethnicity, and class—and sometimes also add sexuality, nationality, age, disability, and others. They believe that people experience gender differently depending on their location in the structures of race, ethnicity and class. Therefore, there is no universal female experience. This perspective is sometimes referred to as black feminism, multiracial feminism, or womanism.

Post-modern feminists believe that gender and sex are multiple, constantly changing, and performed by individuals. There are many (i.e., more than two) genders and sexes. They focus on creating social change through challenging the existence and blurring the boundaries of these categories. This perspective shares many ideas with queer theory.