# Contents

1 Introduction to the Sociology of Gender 1  
   Chapter Objectives 1  
   Introduction 2  
   Sociological Vantage Points 3  
   A Brief History of the Sociological Study of Gender 5  
   Defining Gender 8  
   Three Frameworks for Understanding Gender 16  
   Gender Matters 18  
   Who is to Blame? Understanding Gender Inequality 19  
   Chapter Summary 20  
   Further Reading 21  
   Key Terms 21  
   Critical Thinking Questions 21

**PART I: CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES** 23

2 The Gendered Person 25  
   Chapter Objectives 25  
   Sex Differences in Traits, Abilities, or Behavioral Dispositions 27
Contents

The Origins of Sex Differences 31
Environmental Explanations of Sex Differences:
   Becoming Gendered 36
Sex Differences and Social Policy: The Case of
   Mathematics Aptitude 50
Sex Differences and Gender Inequality 54
Chapter Summary 56
Further Reading 57
Key Terms 57
Critical Thinking Questions 58

3 Gender in Interaction and Institutions 59
   Chapter Objectives 59
   Interactionist Views of Gender 60
   Gendered Organizations/Gendered Institutions 86
   Toward a Multilayered Conception of Gender 92
   Chapter Summary 92
   Further Reading 93
   Key Terms 93
   Critical Thinking Questions 94

PART II: GENDER IN CONTEXT 95

4 Work and Family as Gendered Institutions 97
   Chapter Objectives 97
   The Division of Labor 98
   Work, Family, and Gender in the Industrial Age 100
   A Half-Century of Gender Change: Work, Education,
      and Gender Egalitarian Beliefs 105
   Changes in Gender, Family, and Caregiving 112
   Gender, Work, and Family: The Roles of Social Policy
      and the State 122
   Gender, Work, and Family in the Twenty-First Century:
      Looking Ahead 126
   Chapter Summary 130
   Further Reading 132
   Key Terms 132