



Active Bodies: A History of Women's Physical Education in Twentieth-century America (Hardback)

By Presidential Professor of History Martha H Verbrugge

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 232 x 166 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. During the twentieth century, opportunities for exercise, sports, and recreation grew significantly for most girls and women in the United States. Female physical educators were among the key experts who influenced this revolution. Drawing on extensive archival research, this book examines the ideas, experiences, and instructional programs of white and black female physical educators who taught in public schools and diverse colleges and universities, including coed and single-sex, public and private, and predominantly white or black institutions. Working primarily with female students, women physical educators had to consider what an active female could and should do in comparison to an active male. Applying concepts of sex differences, they debated the implications of female anatomy, physiology, reproductive functions, and psychosocial traits for achieving gender parity in the gym. Teachers interpretations were contingent on where they worked and whom they taught. They also responded to broad historical conditions, including developments in American feminism, law, and education, society's changing attitudes about gender, race, and sexuality, and scientific controversies over the nature and significance of sex differences. While deliberating fairness for female...



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