

Doing Gender

Gender has always been a controversial subject. The true decision of gender relies on birth and human anatomy, but the interpretation of gender varies depending on societal norms and the mind of the person involved. This is demonstrated by both Simone de Beauvoir in *Woman as Others* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman in *The Yellow Wallpaper*. The two pieces give off the same general idea, but through different situations and scenarios. There is also a different outlook provided by both authors.

Both articles stress the idea that women were considered inferior to the male gender. Gilman gives more of a story than Beauvoir, but Beauvoir allows the audience to question the thoughts of men, and their irrational reasoning behind the idea that the female gender does not compare to that of the male one. In *The Yellow Wallpaper* Gilman describes a sickness that can only be justified off of the word of her male husband. Because he is a man, and because he is also a Physician whatever her husband says about her condition is considered true. Gilman has mentioned counter-arguing the behavior of some of her diagnosis', but simply because her husband detests and assures that he is correct, that is so. Gilman's own regard for herself is overlooked and ignored because she is a woman, and back in that time frame women were not considered as anything worth paying much logical attention to. As Beauvoir mentions in her piece about the thought process of men regarding the importance of women, a common theme is shown of ignorance. In all the reasonings brought up by Beauvoir, not one has logical evidence to back up the claim. For example, Beauvoir mentions how men disregard women because they

forgets that his anatomy also includes hormones and testicles."

Overall there was and is no logical reasoning to consider women inferior to men. The reason this behavior and expectations has been able to continue throughout the centuries is because of the concept doing gender. Societal norms before today have placed men above women in rankings, and because of this society has been left to automatically follow throughout time. This is why women such as Gilman were left defenseless in a man's world, and why Beauvoir could provide a man's beautiful logic as to why.