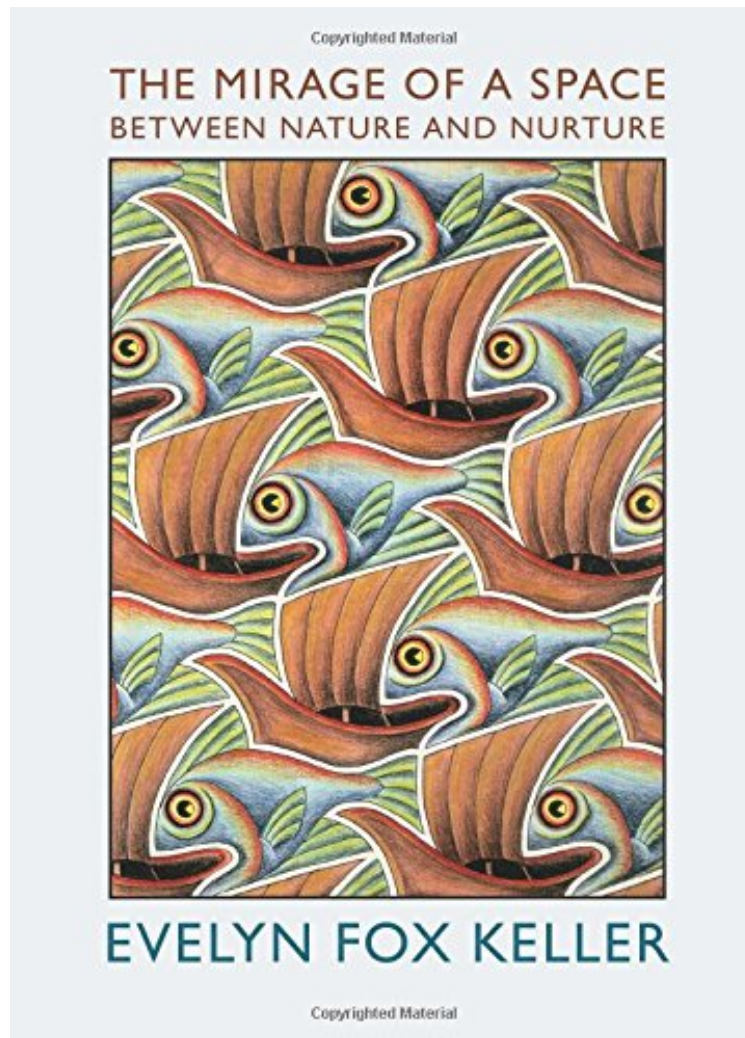


The Mirage of a Space between Nature and Nurture

Evelyn Fox Keller

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Evelyn Fox Keller : The Mirage of a Space between Nature and Nurture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mirage of a Space between Nature and Nurture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. was not a terrible read for being requiredBy betslsPurchased for a course, was not a terrible read for being required. Easy enough to understand as a social science major, with some bio background.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detailed depiction of philosophical issues in long standing biological debate.By AndresThe analysis that keller presents touches upon fundamental and widespread misunderstandings on biology. However, very little light she gives on how yo effectively overcome them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nice, short critique of the alleged gap between nature ...By Robert SkipperA really, nice, short critique of the alleged gap between nature and nurture.

In this powerful critique, the esteemed historian and philosopher of science Evelyn Fox Keller addresses the nature-nurture debates, including the persistent disputes regarding the roles played by genes and the environment in determining individual traits and behavior. Keller is interested in both how an oppositional versus came to be inserted between nature and nurture, and how the distinction on which that opposition depends, the idea that nature and nurture are separable, came to be taken for granted. How, she asks, did the illusion of a space between nature and nurture become entrenched in our thinking, and why is it so tenacious? Keller reveals that the assumption that the influences of nature and nurture can be separated is neither timeless nor universal, but rather a notion that emerged in Anglo-American culture in the late nineteenth century. She shows that the seemingly clear-cut nature-nurture debate is riddled with incoherence. It encompasses many disparate questions knitted together into an indissoluble tangle, and it is marked by a chronic ambiguity in language. There is little consensus about the meanings of terms such as nature, nurture, gene, and environment. Keller suggests that contemporary genetics can provide a more appropriate, precise, and useful vocabulary, one that might help put an end to the confusion surrounding the nature-nurture controversy.

Evelyn Fox Kellers diagnosis of prevalent confusions in our thinking about nature and nurture is so lucid, informed, and sensitive that it is tempting to insist that scientists, journalists, philosophers, and policy-makers who intend to talk about nature and nurture should be required to demonstrate their mastery of her arguments before their thoughts are let loose on society. Philip Kitcher, author of *Living with Darwin*