

Caroline Criado Perez, *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, London, Vintage, Chatto & Windus, 2019.

<p>Since the #metoo movement emerged globally in late 2017, following revelations about Harvey Weinstein's systematic sexual harassment and abuse of women, there has been a growing awareness of violence against women in many countries. In the United Kingdom, the kidnapping, sexual assault and murder of Sarah Everard by a policeman, who arrested Ms Everard for breaching Covid-19 regulations in March 2021, has further contributed to greater consciousness about women's safety in public spaces.</p> <p>In <i>Invisible Women</i>, Caroline Criado Perez, however, demonstrates to what extent the specific needs and characteristics of women are often missing in public debate and public policy – even if women make up half the world's population. Instead of taking into consideration women's different anatomies, physiologies, work (much of which is unpaid), and menstrual cycles (always a taboo), much public policy and behaviour in the private sector assumes that men are representative of all humans. The "universal" is in fact the "default male" or "Reference Man", who is Caucasian, aged twenty-five to thirty, and who weighs 70 kgs.</p> <p>As a result, whole swathes of public and personal life are poorly designed for women: women don't often have the "Hollywood heart attack" with pain in the chest and left-arm and so they are poorly treated; women's urban travel involves more "trip-chaining" closer to home between schools, shops and doctors and less two-way commuting in and out of town centres; women's smaller size means their postures in cars are different to men's and so they are more vulnerable in crashes; women's needs to use safe and clean toilets are largely ignored in the developed and emerging world, with significant safety and health consequences. And so it goes on. For Perez, these failures in the organisation of daily and public life stem in large part from the fact that the necessary data about women's specificities are just not collected.</p> <p>Moreover, Perez also calls out persistent bias in work against women, often in the name of meritocracy. When the New York Philharmonic Orchestra began using blind auditions to recruit new members, women began to make up 50% of new hires. Meanwhile, tenure-track employment in US universities continues to favour men, because the seven years between finishing a PhD and getting tenure (usually between thirty to forty years old) are years when women may have children.</p> <p><i>Invisible Women</i> also covers the usual profound issues of male domination: unpaid labour and violence. Perez points out that "globally women do three times the amount of unpaid care work men do"; while men are responsible for most violence (more than 90% of murders), and men cause war, which is always and everywhere highly dangerous for women.</p>	<p>Globally=worldwide (not generally)</p> <p>To breach (a rule)= to break (a rule), to make a hole/a gap in</p> <p>Default=here, a standard position due to lack of choice</p> <p>Caucasian= white</p> <p>Swathe=large amounts (also wrapping, cloth, bandage)</p> <p>To commute= to travel to work</p> <p>To stem (from)=to originate from, to follow from</p> <p>Blind auditions= auditions where the player is not seen</p> <p>To hire= to employ, to rent</p>
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A. Are the following sentences True or False?

- 1/ A policeman abused his powers to abduct Sarah Everard.
- 2/ Public policies are designed to take into account the differences between women and men.
- 3/ The characteristics of men are generally those of all human beings.
- 4/ Women often have different transport needs to men.
- 5/ The lack of enough data is an important issue in adapting goods and services to women.

B. Match words in the left column with definitions in the right column

1. Growing awareness	a. to be exposed to
2. To make up	b. to constitute
3. Vulnerable	c. greater consciousness
4. In the name of	d. to gather
5. to collect	e. on account of

Answers: A. 1/ true; 2/ false; 3/ false; 4/ true; 5/ true. B. 1c; 2b; 3a; 4e; 5e.