

Ask A Genius 17 - The Future of Women's Rights

Scott Douglas Jacobsen and Rick Rosner

What about the future of women's rights?

From a science fiction perspective, in the medium future, gender will entirely be a matter of choice, which will be at least a century from now, probably closer to at least a few centuries. Gender will be one of a couple or a few things that people will have complete control over how they appear in the world gender wise, and in a lot of other ways.

So, gender will have a lot less inherent implications. When you can choose what gender to be, there will be very little in the way of superiority of assigned gender. If gender is as simple as whether you decide to wear a hat or not, nobody's going to make the, or only idiots will make the, argument that hat wearer's are inherently better than non-hat wearers.

However, during times closer to our own, gender has grown more fluid and in many parts of the world acceptance of gender fluidity has grown. The general trend is for people to believe in gender equality. There are plenty of unconscious and quite a few conscious biases still in place, but they have lessened on average over time.

The tasks in nature and early civilization required a particular gender or seemed to favour a particular gender such as hunting vs. gathering. If that was even how it would split gender-wise, then tasks would favour one gender over another. They have been fading or have been colonized by the other genders.

It's a slow and not-always forward march towards equality an enlightenment.