

# CHOICE

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*The following review appeared in the February 2004 issue of CHOICE:*

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Xie, Yu. **Women in science: career processes and outcomes**, by Yu Xie and Kimberlee A. Shauman. Harvard, 2003. 318p bibl index ISBN 0-674-01034-5, \$59.95

Sociologists Xie (Univ. of Michigan) and Shauman (Univ. of California, Davis) have prepared this detailed and scholarly study of the career paths of women in science, remarkable for the comprehensive scope of its contents as well as the detail and precision of its findings. Within the general framework of the life course perspective, this study looks at the career paths of women scientists from many points of view: individual goals, familial (both family of origin and the family of formation) influences, and the influence of social institutions and gender stereotypes. The narrative begins with women's experiences in middle and high school, moves through the normal sequence of higher education, and then turns to an extended discussion of women scientists and engineers in the workplace. There is an interesting chapter on the experience of immigrant scientists and engineers, and specific chapters devoted to geographic mobility, research productivity, and career paths after the master's degree. Numerical data, statistical analysis, and statistical tables provide a significant portion of the content. It is the most carefully argued and well-documented investigation of both the gender differences in science and the reasons women leave science presently available--an important and praiseworthy contribution. Excellent index and references. **Summing Up:** Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals; two-year technical program students. -- *M. H. Chaplin, Wellesley College*