

Out to Work: A History of Wage-earning Women in the United States 1982 Oxford University Press, 1982 400 pages Hopkins Harris, Alice Kessler-Harris 9780195030242

In the United States, there are more women in the work force at higher levels than in any other country in the world and they still make less than their male counterparts. In Sweden, women's wages are high, but their role in the work force remains. Many women choose to interrupt their careers, working part time or temporarily dropping out, to raise children. Such decisions can permanently disrupt earning power. To the extent that discrimination contributes to the gap between men's and women's wages, the gender wage gap is a drain on productivity. of wage-earning women in America."--David Brody, University of California, Davis "[A] highly readable, wide ranging and exciting synthesis of the history of women's work--the best one volume treatment I've seen."--Barbara Melosh, George Mason University, "Does an outstanding job integrating women's history and labor history. A real must for courses on labor history or women's history."--Marlette Rebhorn, Austin Community College "[A] fine and expansive work."--New Directions for Women "In this fine and expansive work, Alice Kessler-Harris traces the history of wage-earning women in America from colonial times through the present." In particular, the 90-cent earnings figure for Asian women likely underestimates the wage gap experienced by women belonging to many Asian subgroups. For example, for every \$1 earned by white, non-Hispanic men, Filipino women earned 83 cents, Tongan women earned 75 cents, and Nepali women earned 50 cents.⁴ The larger wage gaps for most women of color reflect the compounding negative effects of gender bias as well as racial and/or ethnic bias on their earnings.⁵ An even larger consideration is the cumulative impact of the gender wage gap on all women working full time in the United States.