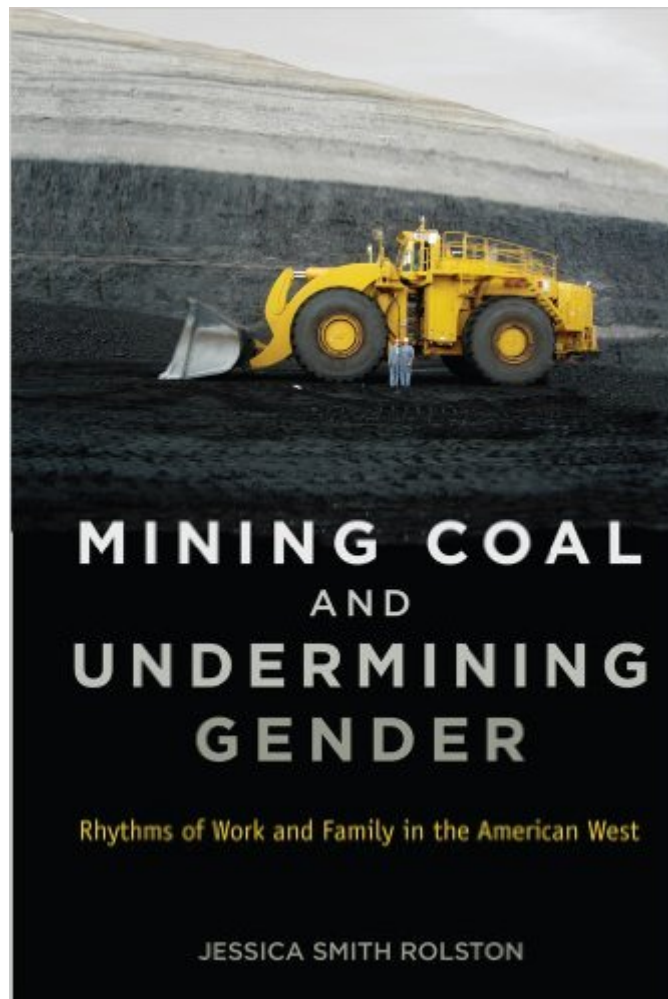


The book was found

# Mining Coal And Undermining Gender: Rhythms Of Work And Family In The American West



## Synopsis

Although mining is an infamously masculine industry, women make up 20 percent of all production crews in Wyoming's Powder River Basin—the largest coal-producing region in the United States. How do these women fit into a working culture supposedly hostile to females? This is what anthropologist Jessica Smith Rolston, herself a onetime mine worker and the daughter of a miner, set out to discover. Her answers, based on years of participant-observation in four mines and extensive interviews with miners, managers, engineers, and the families of mine employees, offer a rich and surprising view of the working families that miners construct. In this picture, gender roles are not nearly as straightforward or as straitened as stereotypes suggest. Gender is far from the primary concern of coworkers in crews. Far more important, Rolston finds, is protecting the safety of the entire crew and finding a way to treat each other well despite the stresses of their jobs. These miners share the burden of rotating shift work—continually switching between twelve-hour day and night shifts—which deprives them of the daily rhythms of a typical home, from morning breakfasts to bedtime stories. Rolston identifies the mine workers' response to these shared challenges as a new sort of constructed kinship that both challenges and reproduces gender roles in their everyday working and family lives. Crews' expectations for coworkers to treat one another like family and to adopt an agricultural work ethic tend to minimize gender differences. And yet, these differences remain tenacious in the equation of masculinity with technical expertise, and of femininity with household responsibilities. For Rolston, such lingering areas of inequality highlight the importance of structural constraints that flout a common impulse among men and women to neutralize the significance of gender, at home and in the workplace. At a time when the Appalachian region continues to dominate discussion of mining culture, this book provides a very different and unexpected view of how miners live and work together, and of how their lives and work reconfigure ideas of gender and kinship.

## Book Information

Paperback: 250 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press (March 31, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813563674

ISBN-13: 978-0813563671

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #666,711 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #267 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural](#) #1549 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

As a retired Campbell Co Coal Miner, this is a great representation of life where coal mining is happening.

I was disappointed with this book! It seems to be more about the author than the miners Vern

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Mining Coal and Undermining Gender: Rhythms of Work and Family in the American West  
The Buffalo Creek Disaster: How the Survivors of One of the Worst Disasters in Coal-Mining History Brought Suit Against the Coal Company- And Won  
Life, Work, and Rebellion in the Coal Fields: The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880-1922 2nd Edition (WEST VIRGINIA & APPALACHIA)  
Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Revisoning Family Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in)  
Mercury, Mining, and Empire: The Human and Ecological Cost of Colonial Silver Mining in the Andes  
Discovering Knowledge in Data: An Introduction to Data Mining (Wiley Series on Methods and Applications in Data Mining)  
To Save the Land and People: A History of Opposition to Surface Coal Mining in Appalachia  
Trace Elements in Coal and Coal Combustion Residues (Advances in Trace Substances Research)  
The Coal Handbook: Towards Cleaner Production: Coal Production (Woodhead Publishing Series in Energy)  
Economics of the International Coal Trade: The Renaissance of Steam Coal  
West's Illinois Family Laws and Court Rules, 2009 ed. (West's Illinois Family Law and Court Rules)  
Eldorado!: The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North (Historical Archaeology of the American West)  
Colombia's Military and Brazil's Monarchy: Undermining the Republican Foundations of South American Independence (Contributions in Political Science)  
Vocational & Technical Schools West: More Than 2,300 Vocational Schools West of the Mississippi River (Peterson's Vocational & Technical Schools & Programs: West)  
Key West D.O.A.: A Jack Marsh Briar Malone Key West Action Thriller (Key West Action Thriller Series Book 6)  
Siblings and the Family Business: Making it Work for Business, the Family, and the Future (A Family Business Publication)  
The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family  
The Anger Workbook for Women: How to Keep Your Anger from Undermining Your Self-Esteem, Your Emotional Balance,

and Your Relationships (New Harbinger Self-Help Workbook) Their God Is Too Small: Open Theism  
and the Undermining of Confidence in God Tangled Webs: How False Statements are Undermining  
America: From Martha Stewart to Bernie Madoff

[Dmca](#)