

from Robert Jensen, *It's Debatable: Talking Authentically about Tricky Topics* (Northampton, MA: Olive Branch Press, 2024), pp. 99-100.

## **Chapter 5: Defining Sex/Gender: Beyond Trans Ideology**

### **A NOTE TO READERS**

This is where, in the original manuscript of this book, readers would have found Chapter 5, “Defining Sex/Gender: Beyond Trans Ideology.” Here’s the story of why it’s not here.

The editors at Interlink Publishing/Olive Branch Press raised objections to the analysis and political implications of that chapter. They told me that they wanted to publish the book but, in good conscience, couldn’t do so with this chapter because of their support for the goals of the transgender movement. I understood their concerns and also wanted them to publish the book, given their excellent work and the positive relationship we had built. Still, I believed that chapter was integral to the book. We potentially were at an impasse. But after a constructive conversation, I agreed to drop that chapter from the published book. In turn, Interlink agreed to allow me to explain the process and direct readers to my website (<https://robertwjensen.org/>), where they can read the missing chapter for free.

Interlink Publishing has a long history of supporting LGBTQIA+ rights. You can read the note from the publisher about Interlink’s decision to publish the book, despite their profound disagreement with me on this issue, by visiting this page on their website ([https://www.interlinkbooks.com/itsdebatable\\_note/](https://www.interlinkbooks.com/itsdebatable_note/)).

I am grateful that Interlink didn’t pursue a scorched-earth policy and reject all of my writing on the basis of a disagreement on one issue, something I have experienced with some critics in the past. (For details, see the Conclusion.)

Several times in this book I have asserted that “reasonable people can disagree” and continue a healthy and productive conversation. I believe the way that Interlink and I resolved this disagreement is an example of that.