

**Virginia Valian, Ph.D.**



Virginia Valian is Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Linguistics at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). She is a cognitive scientist whose research ranges from first and second language acquisition to gender differences and gender equity. Her research on language acquisition is currently funded by the National Science Foundation.

In her landmark book, "Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women" (MIT Press, 1998; paperback, 1999), Dr Valian asks why so few women are at the top of their profession, whether the profession be science, law, medicine, college teaching, industry, or business. To provide an answer, Dr Valian integrates research from psychology, sociology, economics, and neuropsychology.

Dr Valian's science-based approach has been featured in the Science section of the New York Times, Nature, Scientific American, The Women's Review of Books, and many other journals and magazines. She has been interviewed on public radio, the BBC, and the Voice of America. Reviewers have called her book "compelling", "scholarly and convincing", "accessible and lively", and "a breakthrough in the discourse on gender".

Two aspects of Dr Valian's work on gender are currently funded by the National Science Foundation. One project is web-based tutorials for students, faculty, and administrators, using slides and voice-over narration. The goal is to give wide access to information about how gender influences the careers of men and women. The website with the first tutorial is [www.hunter.cuny.edu/gendertutorial](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/gendertutorial).

The second project is an ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award, on which Dr. Valian is the lead Principal Investigator. This award will improve the status of women scientists at Hunter College and serve as a model for other colleges and universities. Information about the Gender Equity Project and its initiatives is available at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity).

Dr Valian is a sought-after featured speaker. Her audiences have included the National Science Foundation; the National Institutes of Health; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; medical schools; science institutes; universities and colleges in the US, Canada, England, and the Netherlands; women's studies programs; and such diverse professional groups as academic and arts administrators, astronomers, chemists, choreographers and dancers, cognitive scientists, philosophers, and theater directors and performers.