

- The last 5 centuries, described as the age of modernity, have been defined by a number of historical processes including the Atlantic Slave Trade and attendant institutions of slavery, and European colonization of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- A hallmark of the modern era is the expansion of Europe and the establishment of Euro/American cultural hegemony throughout the world perpetuating Europe as the source of knowledge and male gender privilege.
- The architecture and furnishings of gender research have been by and large distilled from Europe and American experiences.
- Feminist scholars are the most gender-focused constituency and the source of much knowledge on women and gender so it is an important analytic categories of the academic enterprise.
- Feminist researchers use gender as the explanatory model to account for women's subordination and oppression worldwide.
- Outside the US, discussions have focused on the necessity of paying attention to imperialism, colonization, and other local and global forms of stratification, which lend weight to the assertion that gender cannot be abstracted from the social context and other systems of hierarchy.
- The nuclear family is centered on a subordinated wife, a patriarchal husband, and children and it provides the grounds for much of feminist theory.
- Gender distinctions are foundational to the establishment and functioning of this family type where daughters identify as females with their mother and sisters.
- The nuclear family is not common in Africa, it is a Euro/American form.
- The notion in Euro/American of a woman is that of a wife, which is rooted from the nuclear family.
- Theorizing from the confined space of the nuclear family, it is not surprising that issues of sexuality automatically come to the fore in any discussion of gender.
- Mothers are first and foremost wives and by African perspective and definition cannot be single.
- The traditional Yoruba family can be described as non-gendered because kinship roles and categories are not gender-differentiated.
- Seniority is the social ranking of persons based on their chronological ages.
- Relationships are fluid and social roles are situational continuously placing individuals in context-dependent hierarchical and non-hierarchical changing roles that are.
- In West Africa, the lineage, which is a consanguinally-based family system built around a core of brothers and sisters-blood relations.
- Upon marriage, couples joined the compound of one spouse, and the other spouse is considered an outsider.
- Because of the matrifocality of many African family systems, the mother is the pivot around which familial relationships are delineated and organized, where matrilineal cousins are closer than siblings who share the same father.
- The Western thought where the male is assumed to be superior is particularly alien to many African cultures.
- The African family structure presents several challenges to the universalisms of feminist gender discourses because African social categories are fluid and do not rest on body type or positioning. Marriage is not primarily about gender but is a way of

describing patron/client relationships that have little to do with the nature of human bodies.