

Gender ≠ sex

- A lot of people use the term "gender" when they really mean "sex"

We're not born with gender

Elements that construct gender:

- History and biology
- Social structure
- Socialization
- Culture

History and biology- sets limits and possibilities (pg. 41 diagram)

Constructions of gender change overtime

- 19th century boys and girls wore dresses

Hegemonic masculinity- dominant definition of masculinity

- Dominance of one group over another
 - Subordinate group dependent on powerful group

To be a real man is to not act like a woman in any way

Gender essentialism

- Sex determines gender roles
- Brain chemistry all men share
 - Chemistry all women share
- Reproductive strategies nailed into us
- Programmed drive that creates instincts

Gender essentialism is ahistorical- doesn't take change over time into consideration

Socialization and gender

- What does gender socialization do?
 - Self-fulfilling prophecies

Socialization- norms, customs, and practices

- People become skilled in the way of their culture
- Wolf boy
 - Uncivilized
- Contemporary example of feral (unsocialized children)
 - Pick things up through osmosis

- o Learn how they fit in the world

Highly socialized- “psych”

- Can fake being a psychic because able to pick up on cues and pay attention to detail

Gender socialization- the way society parts male/female; internalize norms and act on them in everyday situation

- Occurs the moment you are brought into the world

Parents describe their 6th and 8th grade sons as having more natural talent in science and math

- Self-fulfilling prophecy
 - o Prophecy- creates the reality
 - o Enforces notions

Institutional discrimination- discrimination created by little institutional barriers that add up

- Ruth vs. Robert study
- Subtle bias that add up to lasting forms of discrimination

Glass ceiling- invisible differences offer litter opportunity for advancement.

A gender ideology: “femininity=domesticity”

- “women are naturally domestic”