

SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER
Soc 122-401
TR 10:30 – 12:30

Sociology Department
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In this course, gender will be studied in a comparative perspective using examples from Germany. Current gender theory emphasizes the division of labor, power, social control, violence, and ideology as structural and interactional bases of inequalities among men and women of different social classes and racial ethnic groups instead as an individual trait or outcome of childhood socialization. Gender is an organizing principle of society and its institutions like culture, economy, politics, and the family. How gender is constructed varies across time and space. What is considered "natural" for a woman or a man to do in one society is conceived inappropriate in another. But there are not only differences between societies but also within societies -- race and class interact with gender resulting in different norms.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

This course is run as a seminar. This means that your participation in class is crucial. I expect attendance AND punctuality. Please notify me in advance if you have to miss class.

- 1) Each week, submit one **critical summary** of the assigned readings (about one page). Send this summary via e-mail to me no later than 8 PM the day before class. I will grade the summaries (check plus, check, check minus). ***Please send the summaries as ATTACHMENTS, copy the message to yourself or keep a copy for yourself.*** You have to submit **at least 10** summaries, but may submit more in order to improve your grade. Class participation and summaries will account for 30% of your grade.
- 2) **Research questions:** Define gender referring to class notes and readings. Pick a topic for your term paper in which you will study gender in the setting of your choice. (3 pages/1000 words) (10%) (***due October 14***)
- 3) Do a **literature search*** for your research question and hand in an annotated bibliography. What is the hypothesis? How were the results obtained? What are the findings? Is the argument convincing? (7 pages/2000 words) (10%) (***due November 9***)
****compile reading list until October 25 and set up office hours with me for October 27 to discuss the reading list***
- 4) **Research design.** Describe the methodology that you **would** employ to investigate your research topic (5 pages/1500 words) (10%) (***due November 30***)
- 5) **Film analysis.** Analyze three scenes of movie "Bend it Like Beckham" (5 pages/1500 words) (10%) with respect to the construction of gender (***due December 9***)
- 6) **Extra-Credit:** You can get extra credit for critical summaries and short in-class presentations of additional readings.

FINAL PAPER: Based on the course readings and revised assignments write a research proposal of studying gender. What will your research contribute to the analysis of gender in particular and to sociology in general? (15 pages/ 4500 words) (30%) (***due December 20***)

READINGS:

Myra Marx Ferree, Judith Lorber, and Beth B. Hess (eds.): *Revisioning Gender*. Altamira 2000 (RG)

Dana Vannoy (ed.): *Gender Mosaics. Social Perspectives. Original Readings*. Los Angeles, Roxbury, 2001. (GM)

Articles on Blackboard (BB)

1st Week (September 9)

INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS GENDER ANYWAY?

Gender is grounded in sex, bodies cannot be represented as entirely social. This lack of a sharp distinction results in a conflation of gender and sex. What is gender? In what respect do the concepts gender and sex-roles differ? Are gender theory and feminist theory identical?

Lopata, Helen, and Barrie Thorne: On the term sex-roles (BB)

“About a Boy Who Isn't” *New York Times*, May 26, 2002 (BB)

West, Candace and Don H. Zimmerman: *Doing Gender* (BB)

2nd Week (September 14, 15)

BASICS: HORMONES OR WHAT?

(September 14)

Gailey, Christine Ward: *Evolutionary Perspectives on Gender Hierarchy*. In: *Analyzing Gender*. ed. By Myra Marx Ferree and Beth B. Hess. Newbury Park: Sage, 1987. (BB)

Hausen, Karen: *Family and Role-Division: The Polarisation of Sexual Stereotypes in the Nineteenth Century – An Aspect of the Dissociation of Work and Family Life*. (BB)

(September 15)

Steinem, Gloria: *If Men could Menstruate*. (BB)

Fausto-Sterling, Anne: *Hormonal Hurricanes: Menstruation, Menopause, and Female Behavior*. (BB)

3rd Week (September 21, 23)

DOING GENDER AND RACE AND CLASS

Sociology of gender is based on the assumption that we are rather "doing" than having gender.

As West and Zimmerman argue in their classical text, gender is accomplished in interaction.

Moreover, race, class and gender cannot be separated -- or added like beads of a necklace -- they always interact.

(September 21)

Glick, Peter, and Susan T. Fiske: *Gender, Power Dynamics, and Social Interaction*. (RG)

(September 23)

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano: *The Social Construction and Institutionalization of Gender and Race: An Integrative Framework* (RG)

Acker, Joan: *Rewriting Class, Race, and Gender: Problems in Feminist Rethinking* (RG)

4th Week (September 28, 30)
EDUCATION AND COLLEGE LIFE

(September 28)

Carlton-Ford, Steve and Paula V. Houston: Children's Experiences of Gender: Habitus and Field (GM)

Spade, Joan: Gender and Education in the United States (GM)

Fox, Mary Frank: Women, Men, and Engineering (GM)

(September 30)

Martin, Patricia Yancey and Robert A. Hammer: Fraternities and Rape on Campus (BB)

Pullen, Kirsten: Co-Ed Call Girls. The Whore Stigma Is Alive & Well in Madison, Wisconsin (BB)

NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 5 & 7

Catch up on readings,

Work on assignment

5th Week (October 12, 14)

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX (October 12)

Just like gender, sexuality is considered as something "natural". However, what is perceived as natural (or unnatural) differs across cultures. Ideas and feelings about such a seemingly personal matter as sexuality are socially constructed.

Rich, Adrienne: Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence (BB)

Connell: Hegemonic Masculinity and Emphasized Femininity. In: Feminist Frontiers (BB)

Vitellone, Nicole. Condoms and the Making of "Testosterone Man". A cultural Analysis of the Male Sex Drive in AIDS Research on Safer Heterosex. In: Men & Masculinities, vol. 3, no. 2, October 2000, 152-167 (BB).

THE F-WORD - WHAT IS FEMINISM ANYWAY (October 14)

Baumgardner, Jennifer, and Amy Richards: What is Feminism? In: Manifesta. Young women, feminism and the future. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2000, p. 50-86 (BB)

Whitaker, Stephen: Gender Politics in Men's Movements. (GM)

First Assignment due October 14

6th Week (October 19, 21)

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Family structures are profoundly shaped by cultural, political, and economic issues.

(October 19)

Goldschneider, Frances K., and Michelle L. Rogers: Gender and Demographic Reality. (GM)

Neusüß, Claudia and Eva Mädje: Single Mothers and Berlin life-styles (BB)

Morgan, Kimberly, and Kathrin Zippel: Paid to Care: The Origins and Effects of Care Leave Policies in Western Europe. (BB)

Shelton, Beth Anne, and Rebecca E. Deen: Divorce Trends for Women and Men. (GM)

Kurz, Demie: Violence Against Women by Intimate Partners. (GM)

October 21: Film: Juggling Work and Family (Part I)

Extracredit:

Rubin, Gayle: The Traffic in Women: Notes on the “Political Economy “ of Sex. (BB)

Chodorow, Nancy: Family Structure and Feminine Personality (1974) (BB)

Dunne, Gillian A.: Opting into Motherhood. Lesbians Blurring the Boundaries and Transforming the Meaning of Parenthood and Kinship (BB)

Rochelle, Anne R.: Gender, Family Structure, and Social Structure: Racial Ethnic Families in the United States (RG)

Fall break October 23-26

OCTOBER 27, OFFICE HOURS TO DISCUSS 1ST & 2ND ASSIGNMENT

7th Week (October 28)

HOW GENDER WORKS – FAMILY AND WORKPLACE

The division of labor in the family as well as in the paid labor force is a major aspect of gender relations and gender inequality. Women perform the majority of unpaid work at home and low paid jobs in the (service) economy. However, while still significant gender differences in the labor market can be found, the differentiation of status and income among women has increased as well.

(October 28)

Coltrane, Scott, and Michele Adams: Men, Women, and Housework. (GM)

Orbuch, Terri L., and Susan G. Timmer: Differences in His Marriage and Her Marriage. (GM)

Schwartz, Pepper: Equity in Heterosexual and Homosexual Intimate Relationships. (GM)

Godwin, Sandra E. and Barbara Risman: Twentieth-Century Changes in Economic Work and Family. (GM)

Maume, D. J. Jr.: Work-Family Conflict: Effects for Job Segregation and Career Perception (GM)

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Arlie Russell Hochschild: Introduction. In: Global Women. Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy. (BB)

8th Week (November 2, 4)

HOW GENDER WORKS - THE ORGANIZATION OF GENDER

Organizational theory has for a long time been gender blind although most organizations assume a gendered division of labor that delegates issues of reproduction to the private sphere.

November 2: Film: Juggling Work and Family (Part II)

(November 4)

Martin, Patricia Yancey and David L. Collinson: Gender and Sexuality in Organizations (RG)
Bose, Christine E. and Rachel Bridges Whaley. Sex Segregation in the U.S. Labor Force. (GM)
Belknap: Joanne: Gender, Power, and Sexual Harassment (GM)

Extracredit/Recommended

Bellas, Marcia L.: The Gendered Nature of Emotional Labor in the Workplace (GM)
Bast-Haider, Kerstin: The Economic Dimension of Social Change: Women in the East German Clothing Industry. Social Politics vol. 2, 1995, 51-60 (BB)
Chamberlayne, Prue: Gender and the Private Sphere: A Touchstone of Misunderstanding between Eastern and Western Germany. Social Politics vol 2, 1995, 25-36 (BB)

Second Assignment due November 9

9th Week (November 9, 11)

GENDER, POLITICS AND THE STATE

How are women participating in the political process and how do politics and policies affect women's lives? Borchost reviews feminist theory on the welfare state, Maleck-Lewy compares the different legal situations in East and West Germany and the effects of the post-unification abortion law.

(November 9)

Borchost, Anette: Feminist Thinking about the Welfare State (RG)
Rothman, Barbara Katz: Now You Can Choose! Issues in Parenting and Procreation (RG)
Maleck-Lewy, Eva: Between Self-Determination and State Supervision: Women and the Abortion Law in Post-Unification Germany. In Social Forces (BB)

(November 11)

Doan, Alesha E., and Jan E. Leighley: Women's Participation in Electoral Politics: Myths and Realities (GM)
Seidman, Gay: Gender Commission in South Africa (BB)

Extracredit/Recommended

Steinberg, R.: How Sex Gets Into Your Paycheck and How to Get it Out: The Gender Gap in Pay

and Comparable Worth (GM).

Adler, Sy, and Johanna Brenner: Gender and Space: Lesbians and Gays in the City. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 16, 1992, 24-34 (BB)

Sandercock, Leonie, and Ann Forsyth: A Gender Agenda: New Directions for Planning Theory. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 1992, (BB)

Bourg, Chris and Mady Wechsler Segal: Gender, Sexuality, and the Military (GM).

10th Week (November 16, 18)

OBJECTIVITY? BIAS? - GENDER, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH

Science usually is conceived as objective and neutral. However, one of the basic assumptions of gender theory is that all institutions are gendered. How does gender affect science? Feminist scholars challenge the invisibility of women in social science theory and specific subject areas exploring biases in the concepts and methods that define various disciplines. Some argue that it is not possible to understand gender without altering the prevailing social science concepts of race and class.

(November 16)

Ferree, Myra Marx, and Elaine Hall: Rethinking Stratification from a Feminist Perspective: Gender, Race, and Class in Mainstream Textbooks. *American Sociological Review* 61, 1996, 929-50 (BB)

Cannon et al.: Race and Class Bias in Qualitative Research on Women (BB)

(November 18)

Riessmann: When Gender is Not Enough: Women Interviewing Women (BB)

Schwalbe, Michael, and Michelle Wolkomir: The Masculine Self as Problem and Resource in Interview Studies of Men. In: *Men & Masculinities*, vol. 4, 1, 2001, 90-103 (BB)

Extracredit

Collins, Patricia Hill: Moving Beyond Gender: Intersectionality and Scientific Knowledge (RG)

11th Week (November 23)

GENDER AND SPORTS

Dworkin, Shari L. and Michael A. Messner: Just Do ... What? Sport, Bodies, Gender (RG)

Messner, Michael: When Bodies are Weapons: Masculinity and Violence in Sport (GM)

Anderson, Eric: Openly Gay Athletes. Contesting Hegemonic Masculinity in a Homophobic Environment. In: *Gender & Society* 16, 6, 2002, 860-877 (BB)

THANKSGIVING

12th Week (November 30, December 1)

GENDER AND RELIGION (November 30)

Sered, Susan Starr: "Woman" as Symbol and Women as Agents: Gendered Religious Discourses and Practices (RG)

And at least one of the following articles:

Nesbitt, Jeannette Baust, and Emma Bailey: Women's Status in the Christian Church (GM)

Ruether, Rosemary Radford: Ecofeminism and Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth (GM)

Rose, Dawn Robinson: Gender and Judaism (GM)

Moghissi, Haideh: Émigré Iranian Feminism and the Construction of Muslim Woman (BB)

Afkhami, Mahnaz: Gender Apartheid, Cultural Relativism, and Women's Human Rights in Muslim Societies (BB)

Third Assignment due November 30

GENDER IMAGES IN THE MEDIA (December 1)

Cultural expressions of gender such as notions and norms of masculinity and femininity are disseminated through the media. What role does gender play in the news? How is gender constructed in your favorite TV show?

Video: *Killing me softly*

Read:

Lont, Silvia: The Influence of the Media on Gender Images. (GM)

Brown, Jeffrey: The Tortures of Mel Gibson. Masochism and the Sexy Male Body. *Men and Masculinities*, 5, 2002, 123-143 (BB)

Extracredit

Walters, Suzanna D.: Sex, Text, and Context: (In)Between Feminism and Cultural Studies (RG)

Cavender, Gray, Lisa Bond-Maupin: The Construction of Gender in Reality TV. *Gender & Society* 13, 1999, 643-663

13th Week (December 7, 9)

GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION (December 7)

Globalization and economic restructuring are gendered processes which reproduce, challenge, and modify gender differences in the spheres of production and reproduction. Global cities play a key role in this development.

Film: *The Global Assembly Line*

Read:

Tiano, Susan: Gender, Work, and World Capitalism: Third World Women's Role in Development (BB)

Moghadam, Valentine M.: Gender and the Global Economy (RG)

Extracredit/Recommended

Sassen, Saskia: Towards a Feminist Analysis of the Global Economy. From: Saskia Sassen. Globalization and its Discontents. New York: The Free Press, 1998, S. 81-109. (BB)

FEMINIST ORGANIZING, GENDER DEMOCRACY AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (December 9)

The very notion of a sociology of gender, the accumulation of feminist scholarship, the institutionalization of women's studies, or the fact that it is possible to take this course are expressions of the institutionalization of the new feminist movement. What are the issues and the strategies of feminist movements in the era of globalization?

Ferree, Myra Marx, and Mangala Subramaniam. The International Women's Movement at Century's End. (GM)

Lola Press, Special Issue on Gender Democracy, no. 10 1/2, 1999. (BB)

www.glow-boell.de

Connell, RW. Masculinities. (ch. 10) Practice and Utopia (BB)

Extracredit/Recommended

Rupp, Leila: Constructing Internationalism: The Case of Transnational Women's Organizations, 1888-1945. American Historical Review, vol. 99, 1994, 1571-99 (BB)

Filmanalysis "Bend it Like Beckham" due December 9

Final Paper due December 20