



This is a graded discussion: 100 points possible

due Mar 22

## Week 1 Discussion Post Assignment: Gender Biology and Human Evolution (3 posts total)

191 228

This discussion post assignment has two parts:

First: Briefly discuss your feelings about the relationship between sex and gender. Do you agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender as highlighted in the week 1 instructor guidance and the course readings? Why or why not? Do you believe that gender is more influenced by culture or biology? Are there natural ways for men and women to act and if so, what explains the fact that not all cultures follow the same rules that we do? Select one of the key themes from the week 1 readings- animal models and gender, mother-infant bonding, father-infant bonding, or women in the military and discuss your take on the topic. Do you agree or disagree with the author's position. Why?

Second: Select a culture, microculture or group that you are interested in writing your Sex, Gender and Culture paper on (5 pages, due Week 8). For more information on the paper, review the course syllabus. You may pick any culture as long as doing the research does not pose a risk to you or anyone else and you can relate the culture's practices to the themes of the class. Briefly tell us why this culture is interesting to you and what you hope to learn about them. If you are not sure which culture you want to work with, try to tell us about a couple of ideas you may have and we will try to guide you in the right direction. **Please also list at least 1 scholarly source that you will be using to write the paper. (Scholarly sources can be found by doing a JSTOR or Ebsco search from the Oxnard College library.** Please contact me if you need any help).

Complete your initial response by Wednesday at 11:59 pm. Respond to at least two other posts by Sunday at 11:59 pm. Utilize the course theories and perspectives to answer the questions of the assignments as best as possible. Initial posts should be at least two paragraphs in length. Responses should be at least 1 paragraph in length. Please be respectful when you respond to other peoples' posts. Don't just tell us that you like or don't like what they wrote; utilize the course theories and readings to critically analyze what they wrote. Let me know if you have any questions at all.

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Mar 12, 2017



Sex and gender can be viewed in different aspects, varying by the individual. Based off the course readings and the textbook, I believe that a person's sex is influenced culturally more than it is biologically. In this day and age, it is becoming more socially acceptable for one to identify themselves in the sex they choose. Despite changing times, some cultures choose to keep their original views in tact, suppressing anyone who identifies themselves differently than their male and female biological norms. These cultures greatly impact the way a person can express themselves. It is becoming more common in the American Culture itself to socially accept a person when they identify as something other than their biological status. Being that a person can choose their identity freely, I believe that sex and gender is culturally influenced more than it is biologically. Being that in my view it is influenced culturally, there is no "natural" way to act. This being in the case of gender and sex of course. A person should not have to act based off the socially acceptable norms established. There is no "natural" way for a man to act, nor is there a "natural" way for a woman to act. It is all based off the individual and what they believe in.

Based off the week 1 readings, I believe that the father-infant bonding caught my eye the most. It seemed so mind boggling the fact that in the Aka culture, men tend to spend more time with a child than the mother does. This helped me reassure my stance on the fact that gender based norms are not "natural" they are simple socially and culturally implemented. Fathers can be a bigger part in the development in which a child grows. However, this does not justify the fact that a mother's influence on the development of a child is crucial. The Aka culture clearly does not engage in a male or female biased. They rather engage in father-infant bonding, which is culturally diverse and unlike anything I've ever read before.

A culture I find very interesting is that of my own. I believe that the Chicano(a)/Mexican-American culture is unfathomed. This culture being that it is a mix of two, makes it unique. With a history coming off a mix of 2 countries, the United States and Mexico, its history lies within the roots of both countries and within the roots of ancestors. I would like to learn more about the people that helped engrave in stone the identity of a Chicano/a amongst the United States. Being that I identify myself as Chicano, I feel writing my paper on this would give me a bigger insight into my own culture and give me a bigger sense of appreciation towards the Chicano Culture. As one of my sources I will be using a textbook Professor Thomas Salinas uses for his History of Mexicans in the United States class at Oxnard College. The textbook is titled *Mexicanos: A History of Mexicans in the U.S.*

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Mar 21, 2017

Daniel, I agree what you said about "it is becoming more common in the American culture itself to socially accept a person when they identify as something other than their biological status." Of course many people won't agree in accepting people for what they are or want to be, but in the era it's becoming big to accept people for what they want to be. The Aka Culture also was a big eye opening for me. Growing up in my family the role of my father was and still is to work hard to provide for his family, my mother also works and does the usual cook, clean, and watch the children. I'm not saying since my dad was always gone because of work I grew up with no good relationship with my father, it did show my siblings and I to show much respect for him, but the fact that these fathers in this culture bond more with their children, than the mother is something I'm surprised to see. But like you said fathers do and can play a big part in the development for their child.

I'm hoping in this class we do get to read about what cultures we chose to write about, I would like to read your side in how you see your culture, The Mexican/American mix of both, since I too am Mexican/American, I'd like to read how you see your views in it because everyone may have some similarities, and some others don't.

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Mar 22, 2017

Great job Andrea and Daniel,

Welcome to the class! Remember that sex is a biological category where gender is a cultural one. I really like your point regarding how understandings of gender are changing in US culture. We are certainly becoming a bit more tolerant of different understandings of gender.

I also really liked your point about Chicano/a culture. Check out the book *La Frontera/Borderlands* by social theorist Gloria Anzaldua. In it, she argues that Mexican indigenous understandings of gender were severely disrupted by European colonialism that viewed the indigenous understandings as inappropriate.

Arion

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Mar 26, 2017

Our beliefs as a nation are changing. We have a long way to go. In our society, we hold make it sound like sex is a dirty thing. The human body is terrible. Sex is only for making babies, and no one should enjoy it,

Why do we have so many sex crimes in this country? Why do we have so many hate crimes against people not like us? Do other countries have the same problems? Yes, but to a much lesser degree. Other countries have been open-minded, embraced change and been educated. What would have happened if when I was in second grade my teacher began talking about Trans-genders? She would have been fired.

As I began exploring what other cultures think about gender, I have discovered we are a couple centuries behind.

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Mar 25, 2017

I love your responses. I completely agree with your statement that we choose to be what sex we want through culture rather than biology. Culture is a huge influence on how a person sees themselves and others.

The father-infant bonding also caught my eye as well. It proves that males can play just as important role in an infants life as a mother, but in our culture, we do not see it as that because that is not how it is even though times are so much different.

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Mar 25, 2017

Your subject for your paper is definitely a challenging and incredibly exciting. Researching your roots is always rewarding, you may even realize habits you have are formed from your culture. For example I was recently researching Thai culture and found a lot of my eating habits are common practices in Thailand and looked at as polite where as American culture finds it rude. (In this case not using utensils if I don't have to)

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Mar 26, 2017

I agree with Daniel, that gender is most influenced by culture. He brought up a very good point about the current status of the U.S, shifting to become more accepting and tolerant of people's choice of gender that they identify with. Although we had different opinions when asked the question of "is there a natural way for males and females to act", I also agree with his opinion. I said there are some 'natural' ways for males and females to act because of our hormones. Daniel disagrees and says there is no 'natural' way, because we choose many different ways, depending on the individual. This is true because not all males and females have the exact same amount of hormones as other people of their sex.

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Mar 26, 2017

Hello Daniel,

I agree with how you said that culture greatly impacts the way a person can express themselves. If a boy is taught to be very manly and only likes "boy" things, he may grow up sticking to these values because that's what his culture or his parents had taught him. I also feel like culture plays a big role when he or she may grow up because it will influence more how they will act instead of how they are "supposed to act". Sometimes a boy or girl may act in a way that is opposite of their biological make up and that is due to either their surroundings or culture. I also agree with you on how in the Aka culture, the fathers spend more time with their child than the mothers. It is shocking because in American culture, it seems to be the norm that mothers take care of their children more than men since men are considered to always be working and distanced from their children. This helped me recognize the fact that there aren't gender specific roles and it doesn't matter what each gender does. This especially reinforces their value of having an egalitarian society by seeing both genders as equal which contributes as to why there are no specific roles for each gender.

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Mar 26, 2017

Greetings Daniel,

I think the topic you chose for your paper is interesting. I do have a few questions for you. Will you be focusing on Chicano (Mexican-American) culture as far back as the brazero period (US History 1942-64), Mexican-American War (1846-48), or possibly even include the indigenous Mexica (Aztec) culture?

As a side note. I'm originally from Orange County but have lived in Acapulco, Mexico; and other parts of the Mexican republic for over ten years. In Mexico City (DF), I met various aztec dancers at the town square. Long story short, there are various Chilangos (people born outside of Mexico City who are then raised in Mexico City, thus learning all the cultural symbols, slang etc.) who feel that Chicanos and Chilangos are distinct and not the same. Some "Capitalinos" (people born in Mexico City who come from a family with roots in Mexico City, going back at least three generations), feel they are the original and authentic Mexicans. I've been called a "gavacho" from certain chilangos.

So my first question is, what does it mean to be Mexican? What is Mexican culture? Once this is defined, how does sex and gender fit within this "Mexican culture" paradigm?

What does it mean to be American? How does American pop culture affect sex and gender?

Professor Melodonis mentioned the book "La Frontera/Borderlands by social theorist Gloria Anzaldua." haven't read myself but I will. I believe many things were distorted by colonialism. Not only in the Americas but all over the world.

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Mar 26, 2017

I have to disagree slightly with an open society that lets the individual pick what gender he or she wants to be. Notice how I said he or she, it seems that we are given a gender from the time we are born by a physician who identifies us as either male or female based on certain characteristics which makes us either male or female in this case it being the male or female genitalia. It is true that there are certain individuals who are born hermaphrodite and this is an exception to what usually occurs. With all that said I believe those who pick their own gender are simply lying to themselves.

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Mar 26, 2017

totally agree with our culture has shaped the way we are and act. I believe that father and infant bonding is as important as a mother infant bonding in some cultures father do spend more time with the child like you said.

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Mar 26, 2017

Sometimes classes like this are difficult. If it were as simple as math, there is no emotional tie to  $2+2=4$ . It simply is. In discussions, sometimes, it becomes hard. Do I say something, is it safe, would I say the same thing if I was in a classroom.

When I finally got tired of living two lives, one in fear and one to everyone else, I finally became honest with myself, and my family. I was surprised, how friends said, they always knew I was Gay (Even though I had a girlfriend for show anyway).

I did not know anyone who was Transgender, didn't even know there was such a thing! I always thought it was Straight, Bi and Gay, and that people who were bi, just couldn't make up their minds.

I sure have a lot to learn.....

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Mar 26, 2017

I agree with you when you said, "In this day and age, it is becoming more socially acceptable for one to identify themselves in the sex they choose." Nowadays, people are more open, and people will accept no matter what gender you are. But there are other cultures out there that are different. There are some other people out there too who still follow their own cultures' beliefs and values but like you said, it is becoming more socially acceptable. There are more people now that are open and understandable than it was years ago.

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Mar 18, 2017

My feelings about sex and gender are like an assorted box of cookies. I was brought up in a family of five by parents in the catholic religion. Which would be the box or cultural outline. Followed by the many experiences and moments along the way for the past thirty eight years. One moment or memory of a touch, feeling from a hug or phrase being the ingredient or different cookie if you will. All the while being kept inside the box by thinking the box is normal or natural. I think both biology and culture play a part or influence on sex and gender. If there are not any two human beings alike. Then, how could there be a standard or "natural" way to act as men or women? I do think that cultures and subcultures place rules or make up confines and/or boxes for people fit in and follow. I think one common theme is that we as humans require touch biologically. This is obvious in the monkey experiment and in my own life to me now that I am a father. I agree with the father infant bond study. It appears to me a lot of US men do not bond with children like the AKA do. That study hit close to home for me, because the bond with my two boys is so important. I somewhat agree with the instructor guidance. Why, because I feel culture plays a huge part in decisions and feelings people have about themselves and others.

I plan on doing my paper on Father involvement and the effects on their children. I am leaning towards this subject because, I want to set the best example possible for my boys. Also I think I will learn something that will help me do that. The way I see it is close to heart I will put more effort into it. One of my scholarly sources will be Russell, Graeme and Marija Radojevic. "The Changing Role of Fathers? Current Understandings and Future Directions for Research and Practice." *Infant Mental Health Journal*, vol. 13, no. 4, Winter92, pp. 296-311. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=23856445&site=ehost-live](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=23856445&site=ehost-live) <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=23856445&site=ehost-live>. Thank you for your time and feedback is welcome.

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Mar 25, 2017

Hi Michael,

I really like your cookie reference, it helps to give me a different perspective on other peoples views.

Do you bond with your children like typical american fathers or do you have any similar parenting styles to the AKA?

After reading the article do you think you will be changing how you interact with your children?

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Mar 25, 2017

Hello Michael. I enjoyed reading your post, and I really like your thoughtful analogy of the cookie box where the box is the culture that contains us all. I agree that culture plays a valuable role in defining gender, although I'm not sure I agree that it influences biological sex, which is genetic. However I can think of one instance where this could be the case when a child is born with ambiguous sex organs or an extra x or y chromosome and the culture dictates how to handle the situation with raising the child as male or female (in a binary gender system in which only those two genders/sexes are recognized), but in this case it seems like they would be assigning the gender still rather than altering the genetic material of the individual in question. I also agree with your observation that humans require touch as

a biological need as other animals do as well. The Harlow's monkey experiment, one that ethically could not be conducted today due to the extreme distress and harm it caused to the poor critters, was a clear demonstration of the need for contact, and not just physical nourishment to thrive.

As the working wife to a stay at home father in our family I absolutely agree that bonding between a father and child is important. Your paper subject sounds very interesting and relevant. You can also get some great ethnographic research by observing how other dads interact with their children or by interviewing fathers. I'm happy to also share our experience with my husband being a stay at home dad. Because he was home almost full time with our youngest child while I worked graveyard shift our daughter (9 years old now) is extremely bonded to him. He bottle fed her, wore her in a baby wrap, and basically spent every waking moment with her in her infancy. He has demonstrated to me that a father who participates in the way that mothers are expected to in the American culture develops a very similar bond and can provide everything a child needs to thrive. In contrast, with my son I was home much more of the time and I almost exclusively breastfed him for his first year of life (although he did take bottles of pumped milk) Because I nursed him I had him with me around the clock, wore him in the sling or on my back, etc. My husband only occasionally fed him bottles when I worked. My son is much more bonded to me than my husband even now at 5 years of age. In contrast when our husband cares for our son-he rough houses much like the article about the Aka explained, which he did not really do much with our daughter. Of course the other question to be raised then is- does he treat girls differently than boys or is this a result of the different bonding experiences? I hope some of this is helpful for ideas for your paper.

#### Source Citation List:

Week 1 Instructor Guidance

Brettell, Caroline, and Carolyn F. Sargent. *Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective*, Brettell & Sargent . 6th Edition. N.p.: Academic Internet Incorporated, n.d. Web. 19 Mar. 2017.

Hodgson, Dorothy Louise. *The Gender, Culture, and Power Reader*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2016. Print.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334>



Michael Wilcox

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334>

Mar 26, 2017



I like to think I bond more like the Aka do. I also feel that there is always room for improvement. I take my role as a father very serious. So that being said I am very excited to learn more about how culture and my views will affect my boys. I hope that answers your questions. Thank you for your feedback.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>



Leslie Lerda

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>

Mar 26, 2017



Michael, I found your perspective on sex and gender very interesting and as you say an out of the box view. It is true that no two people are exactly alike, but is that because of biology or is that because of our culture. It's common for people to confuse biological sex and gender. Our sex only refers to our sexual anatomy and chromosomes. Sex from what I have learned is a biological term which refers to our genetic make-up or chromosomes. Our gender is our biological, social, and legal status as girls and boys, women and men, and our cultures play a huge role in how that is developed within that culture. I also found that monkey experiment quite eye opening, and I agree that the men in our country could bond in a deeper way with their children. I love your idea of doing your paper on the father involvement and their effects on their children. I think it is very admirable that you want to grow as a parent and want to be the best dad for your children. Great post coming from a unique perspective, I enjoyed reading it.

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Mar 26, 2017

The cookie metaphor works incredibly well in this topic. I can say I've felt the same way, being wrapped up in our culture and norms that we forget it is an outline that has been preset for us to live in. I do agree that no two humans are exactly alike, so there is no 'natural' way to act, but there are some commonalities. For example, women get their periods and act cranky or uncomfortable. It is universal for women to express some discomfort or annoyance with the monthly routine of our bodies. I would say that is a natural way for women to act. Sorry if that makes anyone uncomfortable, but we are all adults here and I thought it was a good example.

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Mar 26, 2017

I really enjoyed your post. I especially liked the fact that you included your own bond with your children within it. I feel as though reading something about Father-Infant bonding only does so much, where as actually experiencing and witnessing your own personal relationship with your children is a whole world in its own. I feel that since you read the different ways that the Aka Fathers interact with their children, it should give you a completely different view as the "common" view in our culture today.

Given that you have children, I feel the father-infant bonding topic for your paper is perfectly suitable. It will allow you to put your culture values and how you interact with your children into question, while at the same time seeing how other fathers interact with their children amongst different situations. I personally feel as though a father-infant relationship has a great impact. I found a great source that might be of use to you for this essay. It is a book titled, *Father-Child Relations: Cultural and Biosocial Contexts*, by Barry S. Hewlett.

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Mar 26, 2017

Hi Michael,

I also was raised in a Catholic home so I understand how it can almost frame you're mind into thinking a certain way. I myself was very lucky to have parents who still kept me with a open mind and to never accept the normal views or concepts. I agree with what you said about the father and bonding. I think you'll have a great start with your paper based on your knowledge of this topic.

[← Reply](#)

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Mar 26, 2017

A lot of men in the US won't take this at heart, meaning that they won't get emotionally upset if they don't get the maternity leave. Its always known that that's the mothers place right? I agree with you that it is important to take a fatherly role like the AKA do! As well as the decisions and choices that we carry upon ourselves tend to have a lot to do with the way our culture and parents guided us by. Very interesting topic, if you're leaning towards that subject it will open a lot more of your knowledge towards your children and it might help you improve yourself in the father involvement study.

 [Reply](#)

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Mar 26, 2017

Hello Michael,

I really liked the way you compared the cookie box to sex and gender. You made a great point on mentioning how there are no two same people, so how could there be a standard for men and women to follow. I really admire you on wanting to set the best example for your boys as well as leaving room for learning new skills to achieve that goal.

 [Reply](#)

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Mar 19, 2017

Part 1: Let me start by saying how excited I am to be taking this course. I completed the Magic, Witchcraft and Religion course. Professor Melidonis suggested that I would really enjoy this course as well; and this week's course material has proved he is correct. I have very open feelings surrounding the relationship between sex and gender having been raised in the Unitarian Universalist Church, where gender roles were fluid and hardly dependent on one's biological sex organs. However, I have received extremely mixed messages regarding whether this fluidity was acceptable in my upbringing. In saying this, I feel strongly that the expectation that a person of a specific sex should adhere to the associated gender and behave within the cultural bounds of normalcy and the limitations placed upon both men and women in that given culture are most greatly influenced by culture and not by biology.

I agree with the definitions of sex and gender as explained in our week 1 instructor guidance and the course readings and I think this distinction is important to understand and evaluate the relationship between sex, a "biologically determined set of characteristics usually represented as male, female or intersex.. as defined by chromosomes." (Melidonis, Week 1 Instructor Guidance) and gender, "a culturally defined set of characteristics and behaviors that is utilized by people to categorize and understand sex differences defined in some cultures as masculine or feminine".(Melidonis, Week 1 Instructor Guidance) This need for distinction is observable in our own culture that there are people who identify with a gender that does not match their chromosomal genetic makeup (sex) and I would like to think that our cultural ability to accept those whose identities aren't bound by their DNA is improving with time. As illustrated in our text book, "The Gender, Culture and Power Reader" by Dorothy L. Hodgson there are biological influences that have shaped cultural views on the relationship between gender and sex, and placed women closer to nature (Hodgson, pg.9), I would argue that culture plays a far greater role in influencing gender roles. Biology or nature bestows upon men and women certain capabilities e.g. a man's ability to father many children and a woman's ability to gestate a pregnancy and provide nourishment for a child with her body; the extent to which these abilities determines male and female roles depends heavily upon the culture. In the United States where men are encouraged in hospitals to provide skin-to-skin time with their newborns, where formula is readily available, where there are pacifiers to soothe babies in place of nipples it is very possible for the father to assume a role traditionally assigned to a mother, as I have witnessed firsthand as a gestational surrogate to a homosexual couple. With many households needing two incomes to survive financially in the US we have seen the advent of breast pumps, and pumping bras allowing women to provide breast milk to their babies while still working. However, in comparison we look at the Aka people, who reside in the Southern central African republic and Northern Congo-Brazzaville in the rain forests. They have a different set of circumstances including their environment that shape different gender roles. "They live in camps of 25-35

people and move camp every two weeks top two months," (Brettell, Sargent pg. 43) and their egalitarian society makes cooperation and equality at the forefront of all that they do to survive as a people. Their high fertility rate and high mortality rate, coupled with their pattern of moving often within the forest that they call, "Friend, lover, mother or father," (Brettell, Sargent pg. 43) creates a need for cooperation. Women must be present to nurse their babies so the babies do not starve, women must be present so that they can bear children to replace those that die. Men are unable to replace women for these roles because they do not have the technology of a western culture. The influence that nature has in this instance is very significant, but even more notable is that despite the fact that the Aka could choose to limit women to strictly the birthing and child rearing, as a culture this is not what they do. The men spend more time holding their babies than the fathers in any other culture, and the women participate in hunting. Nature can't account for this level of father involvement in child rearing, but the Aka's culture serves as an explanation. Brettell and Sargent contrast the rigorous play of American fathers against the intimate and affectionate care of Aka fathers. The authors reach the conclusion that one reason for the difference in Aka fathering vs. American fathering is because Aka fathers spend more time bonding with their babies and therefore know their babies better and provide gentler care; while American fathers engage in vigorous play because they do not know their infants as well due to their reduced involvement in providing infant care. I agree with this explanation and that much of this is culturally driven. Perhaps American fathers would engage in care more similar to Aka fathers if America had parental leave policies that supported this and made it more acceptable. In present time it still seems far less common to see a household with stay at home father who wears his baby against his chest and a working mother who is absent for 40 or more hours each week. That's not to say it doesn't happen, but as one such household I have seen how this is viewed in negative light with the father being labeled as "lazy" or less masculine for choosing to stay home and the woman being viewed as cold for not staying home to care for her baby.

Part 2: I have been thinking about this paper since I signed up for the course, having expected it from the prior course I took with Professor Melidonis and I would like to examine Surrogacy in the US in contrast with a less developed country such as India or Mexico (maybe others as well) with a focus on the experience of surrogate mothers. I am interested in this as I have the firsthand experience as a 2x surrogate mother myself, and my full time employment in this field at a prominent agency gives me an insiders perspective to US surrogacy. I'm also in the midst of starting my 3rd surrogacy journey assisting a couple where surrogacy is illegal in their own country (Australia). I have always seen surrogacy from a very positive perspective and my familiarity is strictly with surrogacy in California. I plan to become an attorney in my field so I want to gain a broader understanding of surrogacy internationally. It goes without saying that to be a surrogate one must be a biological female with a womb and it is a very small and interesting subset of women who are medically qualified and willing to take on this task. I want to objectively compare and contrast Surrogacy in developed countries with cases in countries such as India. Some of the questions I wish to explore are: What are the demographics of surrogate mothers? What motivates surrogate mothers? How are they viewed in society? How are they treated by the agencies, intended parents, and medical offices they interact with? And I want to objectively explore the strongly held opposing viewpoints as to whether surrogacy is empowering to women and a humanitarian act from the heart, or if it is exploitative of women and primarily financially driven across the countries I compare and contrast. I want to learn more about what drives these opposing viewpoints i.e. is it viewed as being more exploitative in a third world country because of poverty? There are so many questions to ask and answer and I'm very excited to get started. Here are a few scholarly sources I may be utilizing:

"Wombs in Labor: Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India (South Asia Across the Disciplines): Amrita Pande: 9780231169912: Amazon.com: Books." Wombs in Labor: Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India (South Asia Across the Disciplines): Amrita Pande: 9780231169912: Amazon.com: Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Mar. 2017. <<https://www.amazon.com/Wombs-Labor-Transnational-Commercial-Disciplines/dp/0231169914>>.

Scott, Elizabeth S. "SURROGACY AND THE POLITICS OF COMMODIFICATION." *Law and Contemporary Problems*, vol. 72, no. 3, 2009, pp. 109–146., [www.jstor.org/stable/40647246](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40647246).

Anleu, Sharyn Roach. "Surrogacy: For Love but Not for Money?" *Gender and Society*, vol. 6, no. 1, 1992, pp. 30–48., [www.jstor.org/stable/189910](http://www.jstor.org/stable/189910).

Sharyn L. Roach Anleu. "Reinforcing Gender Norms: Commercial and Altruistic Surrogacy." *Acta Sociologica*, vol. 33, no. 1, 1990, pp. 63–74., [www.jstor.org/stable/4200780](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4200780).

Pande, Amrita. "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker." *Signs*, vol. 35, no. 4, 2010, pp. 969–992., [www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/651043](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/651043).

Source Citation List:

Week 1 Instructor Guidance

Brettell, Caroline, and Carolyn F. Sargent. *Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective*, Brettell & Sargent. 6th Edition. N.p.: Academic Internet Incorporated, n.d. Web. 19 Mar. 2017.

Hodgson, Dorothy Louise. *The Gender, Culture, and Power Reader*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2016. Print.

Edited by [Shoshannah Ingersoll](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702) (https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702) on Mar 19 at 6:54pm

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Arion Melidonis](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) (https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

Mar 22, 2017

Perfect post Shoshannah,

Well done! It is great to have you in another class. I absolutely love your paper topic and the questions that you raise. These are really interesting questions to explore, particularly as reproductive technologies evolve (we have babies with 3 biological parents now) and we seen an increase in international surrogacy. I also really like how you incorporate law into this topic. As an anthropologist, I would love to see more public policy grounded in research like this. It is only by actually getting on the ground and living with people that we begin to understand how practices like these impact their lives. Well done!

Arion

Edited by [Arion Melidonis](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) (https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) on Mar 22 at 8pm

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Shoshannah Ingersoll](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702) (https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702>

Mar 24, 2017

Thank you so much for the great feedback professor! I couldn't agree more. I am starting to consider a double major actually. I started off as a psychology major with the long term goal of law school. I need a bachelor's degree in anything really to get into law school and chose psychology because of the clear benefits in a law profession. I took these courses in anthropology as electives and now I am fascinated and eager to learn more because I see how useful it could be in my field which is global.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Arion Melidonis](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) (https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Shoshannah,

I lot of anthropologists also have law degrees because the disciplines are so closely related. The nice part of connecting anthropology to law is that it gives us an on the ground understanding of how legal issues impact regular people. It could also help us create and enforce laws in more equitable ways. I am actually a political and legal anthropologist given that my research emphasis is political, ethnic and religious conflict. A lot of anthropologists with law degrees work in non-profits or in other types of aid organizations.

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

[Dylan Vegas](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8866)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8866>

Mar 22, 2017

Hi Shoshannah!

I think your paper topic is very interesting and definitely something that isn't discussed much, especially when examining the feelings towards it depending on the culture and way it is practiced within it. Surrogacy is an amazing thing; it allows couples and even single parents the opportunity to raise a child, especially when they themselves may not be able to conceive children on their own. Within our society, it does seem to have pretty positive regards to it (I'm sure there's a number of naysayers towards the practice), and I think examining a culture that is against it or may have negative feelings towards it would be a nice addition to the paper. When you mentioned India, it reminded me of a video I had watched for a previous class that discussed the commercialization of it within the country, and while some may consent towards being surrogates, it may be because they have no other ways to make a living, which is a sad reality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GED9rYPkAIQ> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GED9rYPkAIQ>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GED9rYPkAIQ>

<http://keepvid.com/?>

[url=https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GED9rYPkAIQ)

[v=GED9rYPkAIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GED9rYPkAIQ)

If you haven't already watched it, I think it's a really fascinating and quick documentary that gives an idea as to how this practice really differs around the world.

[← Reply](#)

[Shoshannah Ingersoll](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702>

Mar 24, 2017

Hello Dylan. Thank you so much for the great feedback and the video resource. I will look forward to watching it. What is interesting to me to explore are the motivations of the women who do this in 3rd world countries. I wonder, and I won't know more until I research, if even though some women particularly in poorer areas of the world with limited options do this for financial reasons if they still feel joy and a sense of accomplishment. After all, many people are paid for jobs in the world that they financially rely on and still feel fulfilled by this. I want to know if women in other countries feel taken advantage of or if doing this gives their lives meaning. Being a surrogate has been extremely meaningful in my life, and although I didn't need to do it to survive, and I did it because I genuinely wanted to help, it certainly helped my family financially as well as surrogates are generally compensated for the risk they undertake and the time they devote to this process.

[← Reply](#)

[Vanessa Olivares](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960>

Mar 19, 2017

At first, I was torn between the definition of sex and gender defined by the anthropological definition provided in the lecture notes. I believe gender is based on biological factors due to the sexual organs provided at birth but after reading how culture impacts our gender my certain behaviors being masculine or feminine. I do believe that although you are born with certain sexual organs, that does not define what sex or gender you really are. That comes within you and what type of culture you come from or what you feel inside. For example, some males may have more feminine behavior but this doesn't necessarily mean that they are females but that they may have more feminine traits. In some cases, these males may identify as female. Reading more into the cultural differences, I do believe now that culture does define sex and gender more than biology.

Typically men are masculine and females are feminine. This is what is considered natural in our society. However certain culture show different results. Reading about the Aka, there are certain roles that both males and females do regardless if the tasks is considered feminine or masculine. Also compared to Europe and the US, the Aka fathers are more involved with their children almost always being within arm's reach and are held by their father three times more than US fathers. This amazed me because typically here in the US, fathers in the US don't take off much time if any after their child is born. They don't care for the child all hours of the day and night and typically provide financially. The Aka fathers are around so much more and play with the children from infancy through childhood and show love to their children vs. other cultures. They spend more time with their children than out hunting. This type of bond with father and infant is rooted into their culture.

I do agree with the author's position on how she is not trying to criticize American fathers on their parenting or bonding with their children but rather explain the cultural differences between the two cultures. I do hope that this article does reach American readers because it may help boost that bond we need with father and their infants from birth through childhood. The estimated 20 minutes per day compared to the Aka father's is nowhere near close.

I am thinking of writing a paper on the Transgender community and how they are discriminated against in society as well as within the LGBT community. I have friends and family that are transgender or still on the fence about what gender they consider themselves. This will be a great opportunity for me to learn more about their lifestyle, their struggles and how to overcome those struggles to help fight for the rights they deserve. LGBTQ community is near and dear to my heart and I want to help any and everyone who struggles with any type of discrimination, hate or they just need someone to talk to. Thanks to my sister for showing me what an incredible community she is a part of.

Articles I will be using:

Discriminatory experiences associated with posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms among **transgender** adults.

Legal Protections in Public Accommodations Settings: A Critical Public Health Issue for **Transgender** and Gender-Nonconforming People.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943>

Mar 21, 2017

I'm not sure if I made this clear in my own post, but I'm so glad we get to read what other students think because now I can say what I didn't in my response. To my understanding, one's sex is defined by their sexual organs and gender is based more on how an individual identifies with themselves. For instance, we can take Kaitlyn Jenner, formally known as Bruce Jenner, and see that he was in fact born a man due to his sexual organs, but within himself he identified more as a woman. So, I agree with the point you made about gender being identified with the way a person feels inside, but I believe sex is determined by ones biological and anatomical differences.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960>

Mar 23, 2017

This is the part where I also feel a bit torn between biological and cultural. I feel at first it is biological and later as the person grows the culture or the way someone feels inside can affect their sex/gender roles. It's so hard to know what the actual answer is because all over the world everything is different and culture affects people in different ways.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>

Mar 22, 2017

I found it interesting how you used "sex and gender" a couple times as if they entail one thing instead of two distinct, yet associated, things. Remember that anthropologically defined, the notion of one's sex is more related to one's biological traits (chromosomes, secondary sexual characteristics, and genitalia). On the other hand, the notion of one's gender seems to be more related to how one feels or sees oneself (which makes gender intimately related to one's environment/culture). So I think we need to differentiate between these two terms. What do you think?

 [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960>

Mar 23, 2017

Thank you for pointing that out for me. I think I did interpret both as the same instead of separating them as you explained above. Now that I read it the way you stated it is much more clear to me and you examples I agree with.

 [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334>

Mar 24, 2017

Hi Vanessa,

I found your post interesting and well done. I to agree that culture plays a huge impact on gender. I also feel that us U.S. fathers could stand to learn a great deal from the examples of the AKA fathers. I do wonder though if biology has more of an impact on gender. For example, why do we like or gravitate to a specific color, food, or person? Does our genetic code and sensory system have an impact as well? One thing I thought was interesting to note was the living conditions of the AKA people. Their home or dwelling is considered a public place and the woods or outside the living area is private. This is the opposite of most U.S. cultures. In any case, I look forward to your post and would love to read your paper or bounce ideas.

Thanks,

Mike Wilcox

 [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29038>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29038>

Mar 26, 2017

"I do believe that although you are born with certain sexual organs, that does not define what sex or gender you really are." I strongly believe that because even in your discussion you are talking about people that are struggling with what they are in the inaked and really want to be in the outside. a man or woman, that are know in there heart they are suppose to be the opposite sex.

◦ [◀ Reply](#)

◦  [Hugo Ayala](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8324) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8324>

Mar 26, 2017

I absolutely agree with your post and how you mention that a man can be feminine and not have to identify as a woman or vice versa. I like how you lay it out but have to disagree with the belief that culture determines your gender. It is a universal theme to say that males do manly things and woman do womanly things in each society all over the world. An example like the Aka who tend to nurture their children more than American fathers is something that a male would do regardless of what culture they come from, it seems the Aka just seem to do more of it or to say it is more pronounced in their culture.

◦ [◀ Reply](#)

◦  [Robert Johnson](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/15476) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/15476>

Mar 26, 2017

Raised in a Christian home, I was sheltered from many of the things others were exposed to. It wasn't until I was on my own that I finally started learning about the world beyond my home and school.

The world of witchcraft seems to be similar to the Native American's "earth based religion" I must admit I am not familiar with the world of witchcraft, as my experience was limited to Church and what my parents taught all of us, growing up.

◦ [◀ Reply](#)

◦  [Anthony Napoli](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/1079) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/1079>

Mar 26, 2017

I mentioned this class to a (non-college) friend. He told me he has two Transgenders in his family. When he told me his niece was transgender, and that she legally changed her name, but the State would not let her change her gender on her driver's license unless she completed a physical sex change, I was surprised! I've learned that her gender has nothing to do with her body parts-- and the picture I saw, made her look like a model! So why wouldn't they let her change her driver's license?

◦ [◀ Reply](#)

◦  [Kaitlyn Mrazak](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3835) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3835>

Mar 19, 2017

I believe sex and gender are different things. Sex is something determined by biology where as gender is not. So, yes, I agree with the anthropological definitions because sex is determined by chromosomes and gender can be determined by our cultures and societies.

No, I do not think that there are "natural" ways for men and women to act. I think that a person regardless of sex has the capability to act and do whatever they wish.

We aren't made to do just one thing in our life. The Aka have things right! Father bonding is just as important as mother bonding. I love that the men and women both share the responsibilities of hunting and providing for the children. It is on the opposite spectrum of most men I have encountered in Western society.

As for my paper I would like to write about drag queens. I am interested in this culture because I have always been infatuated with the art of drag. One source I will utilize "Handbook of LGBT Communities, Crime, and Justice" by Dana Peterson.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142>

Mar 21, 2017

I agree with you very much in respects to the AKA sharing equal responsibilities for the infants. I believe that may be the reason they seem to be so tight as a family (from my understanding from the reading). The sharing of responsibilities and roles I believe plays a big factor in why their society is working so well. Both the women and men are well rounded, they can hunt, nurture and care for their families regardless of male or female. Their gender does not matter to how they operate which is what happens to be the opposite in different societies. More often than not males are seen as the "bread winners" for a family and the mother left to raise the children and other duties I believe is what leads to male and females being influenced by the culture they're brought up in.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8866> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8866>

Mar 22, 2017

Hey Kaitlyn!

Another really interesting paper topic, and one of the ones that I've been sort of toying around with in what to use for my own. The art of drag is so interesting because of the cultural and historical ties it has to the LGBT community, and the role drag queens have had in the civil rights movement for LGBT individuals.

In the present day, the art of drag, while still seen as a taboo sort of expression by many, has become a bit more mainstream in terms of accessibility in visibility to the world, with a TV series such as RuPaul's Drag Race being aired on cable for so many to see, having commercials for it played on primetime TV and advertisements for it plastered in subway stations. This extends a few years back too, what with RuPaul's work in the industry, appearing in television and movies and even having his own talk show in the 90's, all of which has led to more of an acceptance towards the art and even the idea of gender expression being much more acceptable.

And yet, there's still a level of resistance to it, with drag queens sharing their experiences of oppression, being attacked, discrimination, etc. Overall, I think there's a lot to cover with it.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346>

Mar 25, 2017

Hi Kaitlyn,

After reading other posts and yours I agree that sex and gender are different things.

I also agree that there are no natural ways for men and women to act. They can do whatever their heart desires. It's too bad that our culture has strong expectations on how these men and women should act.

Do you think that men in Western society aren't as involved in their child's life because they don't realize or aren't educated enough to know that it does in fact make a difference? And that infants are just as capable with bonding to their mother as they are their father at around 8-10 months of age.

P.S. drag queens scare me!

 [Reply](#)

 [Ariane Ambrosio](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Kaitlyn,

I agree with you on how sex and gender are two different things. Sex is created by biology whereas gender is determined by culture. I think gender is determined by culture because culture can either reinforce the idea that men or women are supposed to act like a man or woman or gives them the ability to act however they want. Especially since nowadays it is being more socially accepted for people to act opposite of their sex. I also agree with you on how the Aka culture encourage a good act of the fathers on how they take care of their children. I was a little surprised when I read this article because it is the total opposite in our culture. American culture values more of how the father goes out to work and is the breadwinner while the mother stays home with the children and has a better relationship with them. In this culture, they don't see each gender having specific roles or jobs which is good because this encourages both genders to do any job without being valued more than the other due to gender. I really think our culture should follow their values of how their is no specific gender for certain roles and that fathers should work on their relationship more with children.

 [Reply](#)

 [Majissa McConnell](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/220) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/220>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Kaitlyn

I like you're position on gender and sex, and I feel like we have the same thoughts in regards to this topic. Father bonding is just as important as woman bonding with the child. I think as a western society we need to find ways to make this a more prevalent thing.

 [Reply](#)

 [Francisca Salinas](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20921) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20921>

Mar 26, 2017

I didn't differentiate between sex and gender in my post and I got insight to that by your post, which I agree with. It is a great opportunity for us to explore a culture we are interested in. I am interested in how exploring drag queens goes for you.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Gabriel Mateos](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Kaitlyn,

I completely agree on your stance that sex and gender are not tied together. I feel like the most common reason people relate one to the other so often is due to lack of information or research into just what each of those words means and how they are depicted in their respective culture/society. Also, I agree that there are no "natural" ways for men and women to behave. I would go as far as saying that I don't believe most actions/characteristics are exclusively feminine or masculine. Men and women as human beings are capable of accomplishing and doing the same things.

It's awesome you're choosing to research and explore the drag queen community. I feel like it's been taking off as of late and there's plenty of interesting things to find out and look into for your paper.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Sarah Hallock](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/18378) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/18378>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello, Kaitlyn! Your idea for your paper sounds so fun. As a gay woman growing up in the LA area, it is crazy to see all of the different sub groups in the LGBTQ community. Although shows like Ru Pauls Drag Race have been around for a while, I am seeing them come up a lot more in conversation. A big star like Lady Gaga just appeared on the first episode of Ru Pauls Drag Race this week, so I imagine it will be something we will be seeing a lot more of. Nice to meet you!

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Nikki Roxette Palumbo](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588>

Mar 26, 2017

Yes I do believe that sex and gender are two different things and I also agree with the anthropological terms of them. Sex is determined by biology and gender is defined by society etc. We are defined by what parts we have, females are feminine and males are masculine. Gender is just what people use to define themselves as, whether straight female, straight male, gay, bi, trans, or whatever. And yes, there isn't a "natural" way for men and women to act. You can act however you want. It's the culture and society that puts these things in our head that you have to act a certain way.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Kayla Tenorio](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943>

Mar 20, 2017

It's interesting to think before taking a sociology class and now anthropology that I was so ill informed that there was even a difference between sex and gender. After going over this week's readings I do agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender. I also agree that culture

has a stronger influence on gender rather than biology because of the point made in the instructor guidance that stated "if men and women were the same everywhere, then biology would be the answer and if gender was understood differently in different cultures, then culture and not biology was the answer." It appears in any situation a person tends to gain characteristics, beliefs, and norms from what is being exposed around them. For example, the mothers of Alto do Cruzeiro reacting to the death of their children. The women did not grieve over their deaths because they were believed to be little angels flying to heaven and crying for them was bad because it would weigh the angels down. Here in the United States if a mother lost her child to sickness or whatever the situation may be, grieving could last a lifetime for her. I do not believe there is a natural way for women and men to act because from each reading you can point out a characteristic that does not abide by the stereotypical assumption of gender roles. If there is a natural way for men and women to act, what way is that and who is to say what those actions are? Everyone in the world would have to follow these rules for that theory to be true, in which that is not the case.

Marlene Zuk uses the animal models to counter the stereotypical ideas of gender differences in humans "which are often said to arise from the animal kingdom" (Zuk). I do agree with Marlene's take on the topic because of the supporting evidence she includes in her article. One point that caught my attention was about the maternal instinct and mother love. She explains the Harlow experiment and how it shows that female monkeys who were not raised with their mothers were not willing to care for their own offspring. This point counters the idea that mother love and instinct comes naturally. Another point is the idea that males seek multiple partners. Zuk shows in some species that females as well males share different partners.

Since I am Samoan I would like to write my paper on my culture. I do not know too much since I was born in North Carolina and raised here in Oxnard. I guess you can say I know the bare minimum on my culture, so I am eager to find a lot of different information I had no idea about. I found a source through the Library Resources under ProQuest search engine, "Maternal and Avuncular Tendencies in Samoa: A Comparative Study of Women, Men, and Fa'afafine".

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Jermell Collins](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10623) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10623>

Mar 22, 2017

I just finished reading your post and you have made so interesting post, I think you would agree we both believed that gender is more cultural than biological. But one point I found very interesting was that Marlene Zuk I did not get my text till late but the points you have made in your post have made me very interested in reading, I have always thought that monkeys and human behaviors are so similar, brief story I went to the Los Angeles Zoo two years ago, I visited the monkeys while I was there some little kids kept hitting the glass trying to get the monkey attention, but they were scaring the youngest one, so the mother went over to the young monkey scooped him or her in her arms and rocked the little monkey, and I thought how much any mother would have done that same thing. Great post. I think that is a great topic to write on you can get a lot of research on your family and come up with so interesting things.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Yanesa Olivares](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4960>

Mar 23, 2017

I also took Sociology as well and didn't differentiate the differences between the two terms. I'm happy you added the quote the professor mentioned in the lecture notes about how if everyone man and woman acted the same the biology would be the answer.

The mothers of Alto do Cruzeiro do have a different culture and thinking when it comes to their children and death. Most mother around the world would be devastated if their children died and would take the proper time to grieve their loss. The mothers of Alto do Cruzeiro have an entire different perspective of the children and how they are expected to fight on their own with no real parent caring for them as other mothers around the world are expected to.

How can we determine the right way to act of child's death if we don't know the culture? Being a mother myself it's hard to think how a mother does not grieve her child's death but this culture is opposite of the US, you cannot judge someone based on their cultural differences.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21580>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21580>

Mar 25, 2017

I think you'll really enjoy your research on Samoan culture, I found a lot of their culture extremely symbolic and poetic. I grew up in Hawaii where a lot of people who are Samoan really held on to their culture and practiced a lot of their cultures rituals and beliefs

[← Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19437>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19437>

Mar 25, 2017

Hi Kayla,

First of all I just want to say great job on your post, I enjoyed reading it and it was well thought out. I cannot agree with you more about not even realizing their was a difference between sex and gender. I was a little surprised when I was asked for my opinion on the two terms because I always associated the two as having the same definition and meaning the same thing. However, like you, after reading the assigned readings I agree with the definitions and explanations in the book of how sex is more biologically based while gender is more culturally based. A person in regards to their gender identity can be very influenced by their environment an beliefs that come along with that culture.

I think its great and super cool that you are deciding to write your paper on your culture. I believe it will be a good way of getting to learn more about where you came from and get an insight of what Samoan culture is like. You might even get to learn a little bit more about yourself and your family in the process of it, good luck!

[← Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6569>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6569>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Kayla,

I found your views on the "natural ways" for mean and women to act refreshing. I could not agree with you more. I feel as if the cultural boundaries within the United States and the many cultures it contains are changing from time to time. The fact that we learn from our parents and the world that is exposed to us gives us only a small portion of what it truly has to offer. If our world made it a priority to give different views of different cultures within our school system it would be a better place. It seems as if a cultural anthropologist view in these senses are undoubtedly great. i really like the fact that you are going to base your culture paper on your culture. I as well am basing my paper on my culture, the Chicanax culture. Its an interesting and eye opening thing to see ones culture as it really is.

[← Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9542>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9542>

Mar 26, 2017

I would love to read about your culture. Every culture is diferent I want to know how your culture shapes women and men. I do agree with you theres is not a natural way for women or men to act. Culture plays a huge roll in our lives.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Gabriel Mateos](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Kayla,

I can relate to you on not really knowing much about sex and gender until recently when I began taking classes and researching deeper. I never really questioned what the differences would be or knew the extent of how many genders there could be depending on the culture and society you look at. Especially in this day and age where I'm learning about new gender identities from friends and people on the internet, it's amazing to see how vast the topic is. I also agree with you on your thoughts about there being no "natural" way men and women behave. No one can really be an ultimate authority on what is considered feminine or masculine because rules never existed, humans just put them there and other humans followed. Human beings, regardless of biological sex or gender identity, have the capacity and potential to accomplish the same things in my opinion. I agree that culture is the major influence of gender and I believe it's done so with more of the intention to separate people.

It's great that you're going to research your culture for your paper. It's always awesome getting to know more about your culture and I hope you find out some interesting and great things!

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Travis Seemann](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346>

Mar 20, 2017

I think sex and gender go hand in hand. Sex refers to biological differences and gender refers to gender roles which are different depending on the person's culture. Regardless, whoever is masculine or feminine and whether or not you conform to your cultures views of male or female, you are who you are, and before technology nothing could change that. I partially agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender. I just feel that the two are closely intertwined while the authors believes they're two completely different things. I think gender is more influenced by biology, even though I know most anthropologist associate gender with culture rather than biology. Yes there are many ways men and women should act. Other cultures do not follow our rules because they have their own views, values, and beliefs. One theme that I agree with is father infant bonding, because the "highly stimulating interaction" is necessary for an infant. Although this is not as frequent and intense as mother bonding, it still plays a vital role in the infants life/development.

I am having difficulty selecting a culture. Some topics I'm interested in are gender inequality in the workplace, gender inequality in the military, and transgender. I'm mostly interested in gender inequality in the workplace because it is still unfair even today. Some woman are getting paid less for doing the same job as men. I hope to learn more about why this is still happening in 2017. If I use this topic I will be using the book "Framed by Gender: How Gender Inequality Persists In the Modern World" by Cecilia Ridgeway.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Jermell Collins](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10623)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10623>

Mar 22, 2017

Hello Travis, there are so great points in you post. You made a point of technology and gender and sex changing. Excellent point because there is so many different ways now we have been able in society to manipulate gender and sex of people. Back then it was just you were born male or female. I think you open the door for me to research other culture who may be into technology and gender and sex changing

not sure just thinking out loud. I found the father bonding interesting also, growing up with out the presence of my father in the home it was hard, to see these men bonding and caring for their infants made for an interesting read for me. I like some of your topics, I am not going to give not advice on which one you should choose, because I am totally lost to, but I did enjoy the post you made in your post and good luck with the topic you want to tackle.

 [Reply](#)

 [Michael Wilcox](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27334>

Mar 25, 2017

Hi Travis,

I do agree with much of your post especially the "highly stimulating interaction" part. When I read about how closely the AKA live and work together. It is clear how much that sex and gender are more clearly defined. Meaning everyone has their role and it is black and white. Yet still how interesting that most people focus on how the father is spending so much time with the kids. With tight living area and it being public vs private. Would it be safe to say that the mothers have "highly stimulating interaction" as well. How do you think this type of environment would effect are U.S. family dynamic?

 [Reply](#)

 [Juliana Navera](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19437) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19437>

Mar 25, 2017

Hey Travis,

Great job on your post. You made a great point about technology that I thought was very interesting that I also didn't really think about when debating about sex and gender. You mentioned how before technology a lot of people conformed to what their cultural views were when it came down to males and females, and even if they chose not to they always felt who they truly were on the inside. Nowadays, I believe in some ways we are fortunate that technology has come a long way since people can use it to their advantage when it comes to helping them to reach their true gender identity and what as well as who they feel like on the inside. I agree with you one the father/infant bonding. I believe that any parent interaction with a child is very important for both. Interacting with infants from a very young age can lead to positive outcomes in the future and can help shape the child in a positive way. I think your idea on choosing gender inequality in the workplace is a great topic to write a report on. It is a topic that deserves much more attention if we as a society want to move forward in trying to fix the issue and close the gap when it comes to wages between men and women and like you I still wonder why in this day an age we still struggle when it comes down to these situations.

 [Reply](#)

 [Vanessa Fox](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19101) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19101>

Mar 26, 2017

Travis, your post made some good points. I like how you mentioned that before technology nothing could change who you were. There are so many advancements now days that opened the door for people to change their gender. I cant imagine how life was before for transgenders . They just had to live with the sex they were born as. Your topic subject is a great choice. It would be interesting to research if transgenders are affected by the income inequality or if transgenders need to give the sex they were born as and if that affects their pay.

 [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6707>

Jessica Sidbeck



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6707>

Mar 21, 2017

**[Week 1 Discussion Post Assignment: Gender Biology and Human Evolution \(3 posts total\)](#)**

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/assignments/38201>

I believe that sex and gender play a big role on how we as men and women are "supposed" to be. Even in this day in age most(not myself), will say,"well you were born a female, so you need to do feminine things and act feminine." The same goes for males.

I do not agree with the anthropological definition because we as a society are so worried about how to act as opposed to actually on our biological instincts. We are molded by our surroundings. I believe gender is influenced by culture. I do not think that there are natural ways for men and women to act. After reading the readings, men can be just as nurturing and caring as a woman and a woman can remove herself and do what a man does just like a man without thinking twice.

In the father-bonding article with the Aka tribe I would agree with the author. He went on to say that American men do not spend the time with their infants to create that infant bond that the child gets from the mother and he is absolutely right. The Aka men on the other hand are consistently there for the infant creating that same bond that the infant gets from the mother.

For my Sex, Gender, and Culture paper I have decided to write about women in military and the stigma of why they are not given the same jobs and same tests as men. I will be using sites such as JSTOR and others. I decided to write about this subject because I come from a family of military and my husband also served. It has always been a question that him and I discussed back and forth with the same answers that I did not like. I want to find new answers.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>

Esmeralda Villanueva



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>

Mar 22, 2017

Jessica, I really enjoyed your post! I know there is still people out there that say you are a woman so you need to act like one, but how are women "suppose" to act. I agree with what you said about the Aka men. They don't get looked down on just because they also care for their infants they don't get told they are less "manly" for doing it, it's actually great that they share responsibilities with their wives. I think that we should really think we should get more father-infant bonding here in the U.S.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012>

Ricardo Torres



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012>

Mar 26, 2017

Jessica, I agree with you how people are being judged right away by their gender and think they should act a certain way. I think the people who say that were raised a certain way that when they see something unusual they might see it as doing something wrong. In the father-bonding article i feel like he relates to what you said that American men do not spend time with their infants. I think he says this because people have the mentality that men should be working more and that gives them less time to have time to spend with their families.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>

Mar 26, 2017

Not only do I relate a lot to your post but I understand the means you're trying to justify. Sex and gender do play a big role in society! Meaning how they're labeled or how they're suppose to act, etc. our gender is influenced by our culture, atleast what I have experience and seen myself I do believe that that's the honest truth in the world I see today. Based on the AKA culture, I strongly believe that if this was happening in the US, our society would be a lot more peaceful, accepting, and loving. If the children receive both the love, trust, and confidence from both parents physically being there wouldn't there be more peace in the world? I believe that if some changes where to be done with some cultured and society our world today would be at peace! Maybe not all of it but it can improve by taking one step.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972>



[Ashley Reyes](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972>

Mar 21, 2017

My feelings about the relationship between sex and gender is mutual. I do see how sex and gender are alike, for instance the fact that women are more seen as the sensitive type and where men are more strong minded and better at things, but I also feel like women can do what men can do even men can do a better job at doing what a woman's job is. For instance, women are seen as care giver and are supposed to be mom's rather than out there working, where in some cases men can be a better parent than the mom can. I do agree with the anthropological definitions because it is true that you have to stay openminded to other peoples beliefs/views and/or religions.

In my opinion I believe that gender is more influenced by culture rather than biology. There are natural ways for men and women to act for instance from the top of my head, men and women use the bathroom differently but what explains the fact that not all cultures follow the same rules that we do is father-infant bonding. Their beliefs are know as a disruption to the so called natural roles that men and women are supposed to play. In some cases there are people who feel strongly disturbed by these different cultures and beliefs. I disagree because i feel that everyone should be able to have their own beliefs, religions and cultures. Not everything or everyone has to be labeled or set in stone.

As for my culture paper, I'm not too sure about what I want to write about. A couple ideas I was thinking about is a culture where everything is completely different than ours, how and/or what they praise or believe in. Mostly I just want to find something that will catch my eye. I want something different, and I want to know why they do the things they do and where did it all come from. For instance, do they believe in a God? or What do they think about us or different societies? I want to research and write about the complete opposite of our culture.

*Edited by [Ashley Reyes](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972) on Mar 22 at 5:04pm*

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>

Mar 24, 2017

Mary Moore Response to Ashley Reyes Week One

Ashley, my response to your posting for week one helped to clarify my thinking about the topic of sex and gender. When you said, males were more masculine and females were more feminine were you thinking of biological differences? Men seem to be built with larger bone structures and are generally more muscular, seemingly adapted to be physically to deal with the world. Women biologically are typically not built with the same body structure and considered the "weaker" sex. Biologically they are the receptacles of child bearing, men penetrators. This coupling is often described in the naming of nuts, bolts pipe fittings male and female. After learning of the fluidity between the roles of the Aka men and women, and the similarity their body structures it made me wonder how much of this is due to physical adaptations in response to cultural demands?

My view of the of the Aka culture is that in many ways it is superior to our cultural norms. Since the life in the camp of the Aka is very close with about 25-30 people living in a small area it is considered their "public" part of life what goes on outside of camp is "private". In the Aka

camp sharing and the spirit of cooperation is very important. The qualities that foster sharing are prestige avoidance, rough joking and demand sharing. At all cost, they will avoid drawing attention to themselves. This is a stark contrast to our culture where competition and aggressive desire to acquire things and services. (Bretell and Sargent) The nature of child bonding among the Aka men is exemplary and their role is unique in the life of the child. They intimately interact with the needs of the child and engage in minor play like tickling they appear to hold the child often. They offer the baby their breast to comfort the child; however, mothers feed the baby while on the go. They carry the baby in a sling configuration so the baby can eat on demand.

In our world of today there seems to be more emphasis on sharing the responsibility of parenthood. Male and female roles appear to be blending. I know several families where the husband stays home with the kids and the wife assumes the traditional role of breadwinner as she can earn more money. The reality of financial support complicates total sharing and limits the father's opportunity to have the same child bonding as the Aka father. We can only hope the changes in our cultural norms will bring a positive change. What do you think?

Good luck on your paper.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012>

Mar 26, 2017

Ashley, I agree with you when you said that women are seen more sensitive as to males being more strong minded . I also think that females are capable of doing the same jobs that males do. To me i feel like some elder people think that all the though hands on work should be done by males and females should stay home and take care of the family. Now women are treated different they have proved that there is no job for a specific gender.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>

Mar 26, 2017

Ashley,i completely agree with the statement you made. I too have a similar response I see the point you made . And believe everything you said is correct . People should be in-tilted to their own beliefs without judgement .

◀ [Reply](#)

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Mar 21, 2017

I feel that everyone has their own point of view of sex and gender from their cultures point of view. I think that everyone is capable of doing whatever they want no matter there gender . I don't think that theres a job specifically for a male of female sure some require physical strength but that doesn't mean only males can do it .I think that the elders have a different mentality because their parents culture where the males would do all the work while the moms would stay home and take care of the family and feed them. I feel like people at a young age see the way a female and a male act and have that mentality of how a male or female should react to certain things. In the article "The Cultural Nexus of Aka father -Infant Bonding" it further disrupts the natural roles that men and women are suppose to play. In other words their culture follows different rules according to their beliefs unlike ours.I disagree because i feel like everyone should raise their own family by the way they want to not by the way their cultures are telling them to.

For my culture paper I'm not sure what i want to talk about. Im trying to find a culture that is different from mine being the Mexican culture. Im trying to find a culture where people do crazy things for their culture for example, jumping from extreme hights with very little protection. A culture where people believe that by doing something dangerous they will bring good look to themselves.

Edited by [Ricardo Torres \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22012) on Mar 22 at 5:21pm

 [Reply](#)

 [Christian Quiroz \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142>

Mar 21, 2017

I agree with what you said about elderly people having different views that maybe younger people in this day in age based on the enviornment they were brought up in. I also agree that people should be able to raise their children they way they please and not have to settle with the "Norm" in a society they do not align themselves with. Sometimes people put so much emphasis on i have to raise my children this way because a the culture will frown upon them for not following the stigma. Along those lines i believe that is why you also said everyone is capable of doing whatever they want regardless of gender. In our society today i believe now more than ever it is okay to be whoever you want to be because the views and ideas of those who live in our society today have grown to accept or at least tolerate change.

 [Reply](#)

 [Jillien Malot \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Ricardo,

I really enjoyed your post! Well done. This is my seventh anthropology course, so I have become acquainted with a wide variety of cultures. Your description of the type of culture you are interested in researching for your Sex, Gender, and Culture Paper is extremely specific and perfectly fits the culture of a small island in the South Pacific Ocean (although, I would have to argue that our ethnocentric tendencies cause us to view the practices of other cultures as 'crazy.' I'm sure the cultural practice of circumcision is considered 'crazy' by many of those who do not practice it). Those living on the island of Pentecost practice a male rite of passage called nagol. The rite requires males to jump from extremely tall, flimsy structures with only two thick vines tied to their ankles to catch them (it is very similar to bungee jumping). I have attached the link to a National Geographic video that gives you a brief overview of the ritual. It is an extremely fascinating process!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A88fFm9dbVQ>

Great job,

Jillien

 [Reply](#)

 [Joabe Ruiz \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19902\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19902)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19902>

Mar 26, 2017

I completely agree with you that everyone is capable of doing whatever they want no matter their gender. I believe that anyone can do anything they put their mind to and want it bad enough to make it happen. In the weekly discussion the example of the professors son with the pink stroller, that was the professors decisions to even though it is not "normal" he still bought it for his son. Agreeing with your statement that everyone should should raise their own family the way they want to.

 [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972>

Mar 26, 2017

Ricardo, I do agree with you how the elder people are the ones who think certain tasks are for males and others are for females. For example how hands on are a typical gender role that has been created for men and as for women they believe they should be the ones to take care of children, feed them clean etc. And lastly, I do agree as well that people should raise their own family by the way they want. We shouldn't have to be born and automatically put a label on ourselves.

As for your paper, I'm not really sure where you're going with the whole culture where they do crazy things. I don't know if you meant something different that seems crazy to us or something just bizarre.

◀ [Reply](#)

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>

Mar 21, 2017

My feelings toward the relationship between sex and gender would be, that in fact I do agree. The reason being is my personal beliefs after reviewing these readings are I feel gender would be more influenced by culture, than biology. Different cultures have very different ways of viewing things. Not everybody is going to act the same, be the same or even believe in the same things, and it goes for cultures as well. Some cultures may view things as just being normal while others, may view it as being weird or just abnormal. I think some people and cultures have a specific way that men, also women should act or what they should do. With an open point of view, I don't think there should be any specific one way anybody should be, or act, there is no "natural" way any one person should go in life. Being your own person I think you should choose what to do without judgement or anybody else's option.

The key theme I selected was mother-infant bonding. I feel like infants do need their mother in fact very much. As shown in the video monkeys have a very similar bond and connection with something or somebody they feel secure and protection with also that will nurture them. Also without a psychological aspect of comfort and security the way it is raised is very different which shown on the video leads to early on psychological affects that can damage somebody for an entire lifetime. When the monkey was given a choice between the option of a motherly like contraption which offered comfort and security to them versus a wire cage that only offered nourishment toward them, the monkey would stay to the motherly like contraption. The monkey would stay near it for twenty-two hours or more per day, only going to the next option the steel cage simply only for nourishment. Another example shown was the very drastic difference of the monkeys raised completely alone versus a monkey that was raised with a cloth mother or something with a motherly feel to it. When in comparison, if scared a monkey that was raised entirely alone even when given the option of a motherly figure at the time of the scare would not run but it would stay alone, and almost go into its own world and block everything out. When the monkey was raised with a motherly like figure it would run back to its mother and hold on for a sense of comfort and protection. I believe with this theory you can not only damage a monkey but it would be similar with a human too for life. By showing them unwanted love and neglecting them.

For my microculture, I will be writing about The Chumash Indian Tribe. I find this culture is very interesting because I am surrounded by Chumash members and I would like to learn about the origins of the tribe. The research I will use will be personally interviewing a tribe member, utilize the jstor for historic information specifically articles regarding the Chumash Tribe, and visiting my local Chumash Museums.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/15125>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/15125>

Mar 25, 2017

Hey Trace!

I completely agree with you. I can't really justify my definition of sex or gender with anyone because of how that person may view it and what they are surrounded by. Growing up in certain cultures can differentiate a person's definition in so many ways.

I also chose Mother-infant bonding because I am a mother and made it personal. I can see why nurturing your child can make a huge impact in their lives and how having no one to care for you would as well. I loved these articles.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>

Mar 26, 2017

Mary Moore; Week One Response to Discussion of Trace Tierstein

Hi Trace, I enjoyed reading your discussion posting. I agree with many of the points you made in your discussion. I think sex is determined by biology mostly and gender is affected greatly by culture. I believe we as individuals generally act in accordance to our cultural norms or in cases where we not in personally in harmony with them we rebel and choose to follow what best fits our needs. I agree with you that mother infant bonding is important. I thought the importance is dramatized in the experiments by the Harlows. While I think, they were abusive and cruel to the monkeys they did show me that monkeys do better with comfort from the cloth covered wire, even when they only receive nourishment from bare wired contraption only serving food.

Marilyn Zuk (Animal Models and Gender, pg.10) pointed out that the maternal instinct is not a natural when she said," Even a behavior as sacrosanct as the love a mother has for her child depends on environment." (Zuk ) I believe she makes the point of the importance culture in terms of learning behaviors for both animals and humans.

The Chumash Culture Center in Thousand Oaks in an interesting place to visit. The Chumash were a very interesting tribe to study. We are fortunate to live in the area they called home.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142>

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142>

Mar 21, 2017

In comparison to the Week 1 Anthropological definitions of sex and gender, I do tend to agree that there definitions are similar to how I would describe them to be. I believe that biologically speaking sex is influenced biologically, whereas gender is influenced by culture. A person cannot pick whether they would like to be male or female because of our genetic makeup or chromosomes. In retrospect, with gender a person has the choice how they identify themselves. Growing up in a culture that accepts gender identity swapping I believe that leads to the idea of gender being driven by culture in the aspects of being who you want to be because you can be. I do believe that there is certain ways that men and women act because the way we are biologically made up. For example women tend me to more nurturing and more sensible whereas men are more hard and aggressive and passive. However that being said I also disagree in certain aspects because the role each gender plays is based on cultural upbringing and how the roles of women are men are characterized and feminine or masculine. An example of this would be a plumber.

Most plumbers you see tend to be male because this career or line of work is typically masculine driven. Nonetheless there are women plumbers but you do not see them as often because that is a "Man's Job".

With the topic of father-infant bonding I completely agree with the author Barry Hewlett. The father infant bonding I believe is something that is very important to an infant's life. Although the mother can play the role of the father or vice versa, I believe that it is necessary for mental development. I believe that it is equally as important for males to have that bond with infants because in the later years of the infant, a parents mental development also changes and grows as the same for the infant. In the U.S and in other societies the father does not spend a sufficient amount of time with infants and the lack of attention I believe plays a big role in an infants characteristics and thoughts later in their future years.

For the paper I would like to cover the topic of Female Bodybuilding. I would like to cover this topic because I believe women who compete in bodybuilding are frowned upon for them doing something that is considered masculine. I would like to learn why during the fight for equality across the board for women, why they frown upon their own for competing in a male driven environment. My first Scholarly source is the following listed below.

Shea, B C. "The Paradox of Pumping Iron: Female bodybuilding as resistance and compliance." *Women and Language* 24.2 (2001):42. Web. Edited by [Christian Quiroz \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13142) on Mar 21 at 4:50pm

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Sheshannah Jagersoll \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7702)

Mar 25, 2017

Hello Christian, great post! I agree that both biology and culture play their parts in the expected human behaviors we assign to each gender. I think the biological influence is much smaller than the cultural influence on gender roles. True that biologically there are differences between the male and female sexes hormonally and anatomically which influence how we function and behave. But the differences in gender roles in other cultures such as the Aka fathers nurturing is an excellent example that despite men having more testosterone, a hormone linked with aggression, the Aka fathers do not display the same aggressive play as American fathers generally do. This difference is best explained by cultural influence.

I think you chose an excellent topic for your paper. I have always been fascinated by female body builders. I dabbled myself in this when I trained for my first Spartan race a year ago and have a number of female friends who follow strict and rigorous body building regimes, some even compete. I think there is an even broader idea to examine possibly which is the dynamic of female to female shaming in Western cultures. If you have spent time on social media you have probably observed this in action, often in the form of body shaming. Women critiquing an overweight woman for being too big, labeling her as lazy. Or women telling someone skinny they should eat a sandwich. Or in the case of female body builders saying that they look too masculine. It would be fascinating to explore what drives women, even those who are self-proclaimed feminists, to tear other woman down when they see them taking actions that break the mold of what is expected of women in our culture.

Source Citation List:

Week 1 Instructor Guidance

Brettell, Caroline, and Carolyn F. Sargent. *Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective*. Brettell & Sargent . 6th Edition. N.p.: Academic Internet Incorporated, n.d. Web. 19 Mar. 2017.

Hodgson, Dorothy Louise. *The Gender, Culture, and Power Reader*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2016. Print.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>



Julie Mulhern

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>

Mar 21, 2017



Taking into account of Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection and an eye opening experience in Anthropology 101 here at Oxnard, I am aligned with this weeks course readings of anthropological definitions of sex and gender. Gender is rendered around the culture in which it a population thrives and is more influenced by culture. The study of this stands on firm ground with the fact that gender differs from one cultural locale to another. This is true even if the sex (male or female) statistics remain the same. There is no "natural" way for men and women to act. Any stance other than that would acknowledge that there is only one right culture in the world, which we indeed know isn't true.

A key theme I have been consistently contemplating over is the mother and infant bonding. As a mother of two, reading the study on "Lifeboat Ethics", I wrestled with comprehension on how a mother and local culture could find it acceptable to simply *let go* of their babies and be alright with passively dancing the night away, stoically knowing their child had just passed away. The cultural theme was to not mourn the death as to cry would only wet the wings of the angel trying to fly to heaven. I agree with the author's position in exposing this harsh reality of some dark corner of this Earth, simply because I understand now that it was a way for the mothers to cope with extreme hardship. They had to understand that it was out of their hands and in God's. In reality, the real reason was the hardship of their socioeconomic status. But the later didn't quell them with guilt. Sadly, I understand and agree with author and completely understand why the author would revisit such a ghastly place and that was revealed in the author's update with hope and successful change.

I am selecting Roller Derby as my Sex, Gender and Culture paper. This culture is interesting to me as I have recently joined the league and find the dynamics of gender unique in a full contact sport. Unique being in that it has thrived as a female dominant contact sport over the decades even as males are included. Females in contact sports usually get marginalized. Something is to be said for that. I hope to learn why that is so and the uniqueness of the name status (you go under an alter ego, most don't know you real name in the sport). Please look at my first scholarly source I found in EBSCO: "Narrating the Multiplicity of 'Derby Grrrr!': Exploring Intersectionality and the Dynamics of Affect in Roller Derby" by Adele Pavlidis and Simone Fullagar.

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/pages/guide-to-finding-scholarly-sources>

◀ Reply

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436>



Mark Mummen

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436>

Mar 21, 2017



Sex and gender are clearly two different things. I can remember the days when these two ideas and terms seemed synonymous, but clearly pose as two distinct concepts today. This is a clear indication on how far the last 30 years have come in terms of cultural comprehension of our society as a whole. I do completely agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender. As discussed in the week one instructor's guidance and with my further readings of the assigned text can solidify the distinction between the two. More specifically, "Key Debates, Past and Present". In the five topics, it exposes the vehicles in which the study of gender is rendered in, and the one that caught my eye part two: *Power, Agency, and Structure*. Why? Because agents that have direct effect that resonates in our society today of colonialism, capitalism, racism and religion. These agents have had profound influence on our views today and more importantly for this week, strengthen the difference between the definitions of sex and gender. Culture influences gender almost completely albeit I do harbor an idea that ones sex can also co-found one's gender identity, so it does have some say. But clearly more cultural as seen in the differences around the world. Sex (biological) may be consistent in percentages, but gender vary over relatively short distances.

There are no *natural* ways for a man or woman to act. This is brought on us by the culture that we are embedded into. My life as a father of two girls living in California is drastically different from my father's experience raising eight children in Iowa. As that can be seen in the father-infant bonding of the African Aka pygmy population in which the egalitarianism of family is one of the highest in the world. I do feel that is the way our society here is headed. I have had the privilege of living in the jungle of Cameroon for 7 months in 2014 and was introduced to this society (though not met) through the local populations of Younde and Duoula. Even in the region, the population diversity changes within miles of each other as does the culture. In reference to the video of the Aka, I was definitely residing with the "tall" people. The author on the article of the Aka demonstrates some key alternative thinking about the Aka men and how involved they are with the child rearing. Something to remember in the article is the comparison to American and European society and how the fathers tend to "rough house" more than the Aka. I agree with the author

on all points, especially when the author pointed out how fathers who have less intimate time are more prone to physical (tickle, activities, etc.) than the intimate provider. How true, and as I walk around today, I pay more attention to families around me.

I have picked the Acadiana culture of south Louisiana. I lived in the area for 9 years and still to this day find it awe inspiring how a niche and conglomeration of cultures have persisted through the years. From the gator hunting back bayou mentality and dress attire to the mystic swamps and distinct dialect of speech and family structure. If you can ever go visit, start from Lake Charles and head your way to Biloxi on Highway 10 and spent some time in the beautiful swamp. To me, this stuff is of legend from the War of 1812, French Quebec and the influence of Voodoo all the way from central Africa. I hope to divulge into the history, culture and language practice because it is such a drastic difference from the rest of the U.S. Please see my first scholarly article on EBSCO and introduce yourself to this unique American experience!

Acadiana: Louisiana's Historic Cajun Country. THE JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY, Volume LXXV, No. 4, November 2012

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394>

Mar 26, 2017

Greetings Mark,

Your paper topic sounds interesting, considering the fact that I spent some time living in Northwestern Arkansas, I have yet to learn of the Acadiana culture you speak of. Just might make my way down to Louisiana some day I reckon.

Will you be including any type of legal recognition of the Acadiana culture. I mean, does the State of Louisiana recognize this culture?

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188>

Mar 21, 2017

I think your story about your son and the pink stroller really resonated with me. I have two boys and I struggle to not fall into a macho cliché of saying things like my sons don't play with dolls. They could if they wanted to though. I have to honestly say I am glad they nerd out on Star Wars and Legos like me. So that leads me to the question of what is the bigger influence of gender.

I do feel that it is influenced in part by both, however culture plays a big part. After reading the article by Marlene Zuk one can see that there is no normal way for males and females to act in nature. My preconceived notion that men are hunters and have a need to reproduce and women are nurturing is blown out of the water when looking at gender in nature. So I do feel that culture influences our views of gender and how we behave.

The culture that I will most likely focus on for my paper is teen boys. Sorry if I sound like a creeper when I say that. The reason I hope to focus on that group is because I have soon to be teenage son. So what he will be experiencing is of interest to me. One article on JSTOR that I found is "Gender and the Meanings of Adolescent Romantic Relationships: A Focus on Boys" by Peggy C. Giordano, Monica A. Longmore and Wendy D. Manning in the American Sociological Review. I guess the correct term for teen boys would be adolescents, and makes me sound less creepy.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19614>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19614>

Mar 22, 2017

Charles, I'm not sure if you have or haven't yet seen my post. In my post I did share a common moment like our professor shared of his son. Anyways, my point is I don't either want to be that parent and tell my son, "oh no don't play with that because it's for girls!" but it does sometimes make me think well if he still plays with girl toys will he turn gay?, but i know eventually he'll grow out of it...

About the topic to your essay, I found that to be a good topic. I have two brothers, one is about to turn 15, and the other just turned 11, and also I have a son he's 1 year and 6 months. Now compared to when I was a teenager (I'm 22 now) things have changed. The reason why your topic interested me was because I've see so much change in my brothers that now as a mother and a other to a boy, I want to learn more in their growth, what changes they'll go through, a little something so I can prepare myself for in the future. I'm a single mother, and I'm learning new things everyday with my boy. Thank you for sharing!

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Charles Ramirez](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188>

Mar 26, 2017

I had a chance to read your post. I totally understand your question about a boy playing with girl toys. I think that sexual orientation is such a hot button topic. I definitely think that my view of what my boys do is very different than my parents. I know they would not want them playing with girl toys out of fear of how they might turn out. I have gay friends and family members so I know that it's just important to love your kids and be supportive no matter what their sexual orientation is. Again very different than the way I was raised.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Ashley Reyes](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19972>

Mar 26, 2017

Charles, I do agree that it is influenced in part by both. Men and Women should be able to do things freely and be able to be or do what they want no matter the gender. Culture does have a big part in the way we see things and its not something we always pick which should be an option bc we shouldn't be labeled.

As for your culture paper, I don't think that sounds creepy at all, its something that interests you and especially since you have two boys, you get to learn something out of it and may help you when you are having trouble communicating with your sons.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Gabriel Mateos](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16341>

Mar 21, 2017

1.) Until recently, I had never really given much thought to the question of if sex and gender were different and how so. I was raised in a family with traditional Mexican values and views on sex and gender roles, so the question was never really brought up. During my childhood, sex and gender were defined for me by both the stereotypical western American and Mexican ideas of what a man and woman are and should do in their society. Men provide for their family, make decisions, and act as the stoic boulder of strength to their wives and family. Women cook, clean, and tend to the man of the family. Now that I'm older and have gotten the chance to be exposed to other family types and learn about how harmful these kinds

of gender role stereotypes can be to different individuals, I can clearly see how fluid gender can actually be when the definition is given back to the individual as opposed to what a culture or society defines.

As the instructor guidance describes, gender and sex are not directly linked and don't always match up to one single definition or set of characteristics. I believe that gender is entirely defined and influenced by culture and society. You can probably come up with a few "natural" ways a woman or man should act and I can guarantee that they would all be things that you learned from family, friends, or media. No one is born knowing how to do everything. We only act and do things in ways that we are taught are correct and "normal" ways to act. This is to help everyone fit into their respective culture and society. This is why every culture around the world has and follows different definitions and guidelines for gender based on what's best for their region/society. These are all rules and ideas that are taught and passed down through generations. The elders are responsible for preparing the youth with what the elders believe is their understanding of the world based on their ancestors' understanding of the world.

People may argue that there are "natural" ways men and women should act while citing what they think they know about animals and their behavior in the wild, but as Marlene Zuk explains in her "Animal Models & Gender" essay, animal models should be used more as a reference rather than a set of instructions. Gender and gender roles in animals can vary greatly, but will never reach the complexity it has in human society because humans create rules and guidelines for themselves and animals simply exist. Animals are not preoccupied with the deeper meaning behind gender and sex like humans are, they are simply living and trying to survive. This is why justifying human stereotypes and ideas of gender with examples in the animal kingdom is fallacious.

2.) The culture I'm thinking of writing my paper on is on video game culture and sex/gender. I feel that with the way that themes and story telling in video games are evolving, the issue of gender roles and sex in video games has been more prominent. There is a lot of discourse on the subject of male vs. female gamers, gender roles in video games, and sexism in video game plots that I feel is interesting to explore and relate to this course material. I plan on possibly citing Sharon R. Sherman's "Perils of the Princess: Gender and Genre in Video Games".

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11304> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11304>

Mar 25, 2017

Hello Gabriel,

Your post caught my attention because I like you also grew up in a traditional Mexican home. I grew up watching how the women in my life would treat their husbands and sons like royalty while putting themselves last. I totally agree with you on how sex and gender was defined for one not by choice but by traditions. When I was younger I thought the way we lived at home was something natural and something others shared but growing up you come to realize that it shouldn't always be that way. I'm very happy that we're both aware that although traditions come from a good place; traditions should be adjusted.

Your outlook on how there isn't a "natural" way for both men and women to act definitely opened my perspective. You mention how things are learned and aren't built in is consistent with the monkey experiment stated this week. Isn't it great that our generation is learning to let go of old stereotypes and traditions to build a better tomorrow. By the way, I think you picked a great topic for the culture paper! I'm not much of a gamer myself but would be interested in knowing what you've learned.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16700> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16700>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Gabriel!!! I agree that no one is born knowing how to act and that we are just taught. Like you said that if someone were to describe the "natural" ways a boy and girl should act it would be from the ways they were brought up from their culture and or things they saw in media or heard from friends. I myself do notice the small things about boys and girls at a young age that are told "boys dont cry" and "so and so is

not lady like" Its those things that make children i guess in a way know the gender roles that they are assigned to and what is acceptable and what is not from a very early age.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>

Mario Sermeno

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>

Mar 21, 2017

Edited by [Mario Sermeno \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413) on Mar 21 at 9:07pm

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Shenae Perry

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Mar 21, 2017

(1st) In anthropology of sex and gender, we see that we all should abide by our gender and our gender roles. I found pretty interesting when reading the professors introduction on her 18 month old son and how he was attached to the pink stroller. And for any mother with a son, their first thought would be what others would think of their child associating with a toy or item that was not a gender neutral color. When you imagine what color comes to mind for boys, you would think blue, red or green and not pink. I do not agree with anthropologies definition on sex and gender because we live in a society now where we care about our gender roles and how others percieve us while other do not care and fill free to live the life they want to live.

I believe that gender is influenced by biology, because for years we have had this information wired into our brains that women and men should been seen as a certain way and should act a certain way. Women being emotional, homemaker and care taker as to men being the bread winner, masculine and basically the top of the totum poll. Not all cultures follow the gender norm. Now men we see men being the homemaker and care takers of their kids while the women go out and make the money for their family. Other cultures do not have gender equality because for the longest they abide by the gender roles.

The key themes that appealed to me was father-infant bonding, when I was reading the article, it was fascinating because it was all true. You rarely see a father in their childs life in the beginning of their births. It is always the mother being with their child 24/7. When reading about the AKA, I like how the mother and father switch roles. Basically letting the father have experiece taking care of their infant without having the mother constantly there. The father then learns from his mistakes and achieves the success of father-infant bonding. It even says to the mother would roughly joke with the father on his parenting skills.

(2nd) The culture I chose for my culture paper is the Fa'afafine gender of Samoa. Fa'afafine are men that were born males at birth and they embody both feminine and masculine traits. I know the american term is trangender but it is not fully a considered a third gender like Fa'afafine or Hijra. It's either you are a male transitioning into a female or a female transitioning into a male. I defintely want to learn and understand Fa'afafine gender and I thought it was pretty interesting how Fa'afafine have beauty pagents.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/07/16/faafafine-boys-raised-be-girls>

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930>

Ahanic Ambrosio



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930>

Mar 21, 2017

In my opinion, I think sex and gender are different from one another. Sex is the biological makeup of a person that gives him or her certain characteristics to differentiate between a girl or boy. On the other hand, gender is made up of cultural influence that affects the way he or she acts. In other words, I feel like sex is related more to biology whereas gender relates more to culture. As a little girl, I was always taught by my parents how girls act which contributed to how I acted all the way until I got older. When I got older, I learned that these gender specific roles don't have to be followed and are sometimes the opposite. I always learned that women do the house work while men go to work and bring home the income. By growing up and meeting other people, I've learned that the opposite of who holds those roles can be seen nowadays. I agree with the definitions from both resources because in the instructor guidance, it states how "biology does impact gender, but sex and gender are two different things". When it comes to sex, the fate of who we are is in the hands of biology and we cannot pick to be a male or female. Although, as for gender, we can choose how to act.

I think gender is influenced more by culture than biology. Biology focuses more on the setup of how you look physically but does not have as much influence on gender. Gender is a set of qualities or behaviors that a person possesses based on his or her culture's mindset on what a man and women should do or how they should act. I think there are natural ways for men and women to act but not all cultures follow the same rules that we do. There are natural ways for both sexes to act but I feel like we are all taught by our families, friends, and the media on how to act. Not all cultures follow the same rules that we do because different cultures have different sets of standards for how men or women should act. Some cultures have rules where men and women participate in domestic work whereas in America, it is seen or encouraged more that women participate in domestic work.

In the article about father-infant bonding, one of the themes is how biology may play a role to a certain degree in parenting but the cultural connection is a strong influence that forms the nature of father-infant bonding. After reading this article, I agree with the author's position. I agree with the fact that since the Aka people have an egalitarian society, it is normal and respected for fathers to take care of their children. This means that there is no inequality in power or gender and that everyone is treated the same. They are able to bond with them because of their intimate and affectionate relations with their infants.

I am having a little difficulty choosing the topic for my paper but I am looking into topics like the Chinese culture, debuts, or the comparison between the U.S. culture and Filipino culture. I'm interested in the Chinese culture because I'm Chinese and I'd like to learn more about the culture that I don't know much about already. I also am looking into debuts because I've always found it interesting to have a party that celebrates a woman's coming of age at 18 years old in my culture. For the topic of comparison between the two cultures, I'd like to see how similarly or different they are from one another.

Scholarly Source:

Lai, Gina. "Work and Family Roles and Psychological Well-Being in Urban China." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 36, no. 1, 1995, pp. 11–37., [www.jstor.org/stable/2137285](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2137285).

Edited by [Arianne Ambrosio \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930) on Mar 21 at 11:33pm

◀ [Reply](#)

[Yanessa Delgado \(https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4425\)](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4425)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4425>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Arianne, I would agree that sex and culture differ from one another, it is not a black and white topic, but rather gray. Sex is definitely not something you decide when your born, but your gender is based on culture (and as you stated family, freinds, media). We grow up learning and observing our surroundings, so sometimes who we think we are may not match who your told you are, for example sometimes young boys and girls are confused when they realize they are attracted to the same sex, they may feel guilty and that it is wrong because they are aware based on their surroundings that "men and women" are a couple, not "woman and woman". I think your views on woman and mens standards were interesting to read as well.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8324>

Hugo Ayala



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8324>

Mar 21, 2017

I have mixed feelings about the anthropological definitions of sex and gender. It seems that we are all born either male or female at birth according to the arrangements of our x and y chromosomes and that there are a few more arrangements than just the xx and xy chromosome pair arrangements. This causes a whole new mix of human entities with both male and female characteristics. I believe it is those arrangements of x and y chromosomes and their consistent frequency in the world through the manifestation of human births that would determine what the prevailing order of gender would be in our environment, for this reason I believe that gender is related to biology.

I do believe that there are natural ways for men and women to act and it does show in nature through its prevalence in all parts of the world in the way that men and women act as either masculine for men or feminine for woman. I believe it is possible for a man to be feminine but it doesn't necessarily determine his gender as that of a woman. On the other hand we have women who act masculine but do not identify as men. I believe these examples are influenced to some degree by their culture and this also explains why not all cultures follow the same rules of gender. For example and to satisfy the key theme of father-infant bonding I would say that I agree with the author's position on American fathers and their way of bonding with their infant children is a bit more detached than say the Aka who are more intimate with their children because of the perceived value that a extra human life serves in that culture as a forager for resources.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943>

Kayla Teitelo



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27943>

Mar 24, 2017

You mentioned that you believe there are natural ways for men and women to act, feminine and masculine; females being feminine and males being masculine. Later in your post you mentioned that males can be feminine and females can be masculine. Wouldn't that defeat the idea that there are natural ways for men and women to act or are those who do not follow their natural actions considered odd? In my opinion men and women do not have a natural way of being. I believe a lot of the reason why we are the we are as individuals despite being male or female is due to culture. Do you have an idea of what you would like your paper to be on?

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>

Julie Mulhern



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>

Mar 25, 2017

Hello Hugo. Although I do not agree 100%, I can understand your point of view and see your stance. The opposing views make for great debate and contention in hopes we will understand more by the end of the semester. You state the "arrangements of x and y chromosomes

and their consistent frequency (near 50/50)... determine prevailing order of *gender*...." By definition of the respective words, wouldn't biology determine *sex* and not *gender*?

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Hugo,

I understand the point you are trying to get across , and i do very much agree with your statement . Their are natural ways for men , also women to act but if they go outside of those boundaries i do not believe they should be seen any differently or judged because of it .

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19614>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19614>

Mar 21, 2017

My relationship with sex and gender I'd have to say I'm not a person who is judgmental, everyone and everyone's beliefs, likes, and looks are all totally up to them. We all live in a world where if someone doesn't like something about themselves they can change. Someone who feels they are stuck in the wrong body can change that too. Religion, there's a lot of different beautiful religions being taught in our world. Our world, or should I say in this new era, there's so much change happening. Change for the better, and some seem to be change for the worse, but we should always look for the positive side in things.

From what I understood from the definition the anthropologist said about sex and gender, is that culture plays a big role in sex and gender, and I can agree in some ways. I was born and raised in a catholic family. My family I can say wasn't super religious, but my parents did take my siblings and I to church every Sunday, made us pray every other night together. My parents didn't raise my siblings and I to be pregetist to anyone or anyone's beliefs. But I have encountered a situation somewhat like Professor Melidonis about our sons choosing to play with toys that well aren't meant for them to play with. My son is 1 year and 6 months old. His cousin, is a 6-year-old girl. I know right now my son is small he doesn't understand or know the difference in play with his toys than his cousin's dolls. I've bought him many different types of toys: cars, trucks, balls. Etc., but he finds playing with his cousin is more enjoyable than his toys. I know I should think, "well why does he like those toys and not his?" "Should I take him away and make him play with his trucks?" I know it's something eventually he will see that boys play with boy toys and girls with girl toys, and I don't want to sound all crazy about it but it has made me kind of step back for a second, and wonder since he likes to play with girl toys will he turn gay? Hopefully no one takes this the wrong way...

The Harlow's monkey project was interesting. I personally don't like the idea of taking young monkeys away from their mothers, but as an experiment it showed the difference in how they reacted to when they had a mother to run to and feel warmth and love from, as in to a mother who was just there to nurse and not give love and warmth to their baby, like a baby needs. We all have the attachment to our mother since day one. We lean on our mothers more than we do to our father, it's hard to hear but its true, we always run more to our moms than to anyone else.

I haven't yet chosen a topic to write for my paper. I am interested though in writing on something do to the east side of our country

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>

Mar 22, 2017

Andrea, I found so interesting what you said about your son. I myself have two sons a one-year-old and a two-year-old, they have a couple of girl cousins around their age and they spend a lot of time together I noticed that my boys really enjoyed playing with dolls and strollers but it never concerned me because I would just see it as playing with toys or they will learn to be better fathers when they are older. My husband, on the other hand, was very concerned and would try everything to make them put the dolls down but then he noticed they would just put the dolls down on their own and pick up toy cars so he stopped stressing out about it. But I was also raised in a house where we could play with whatever toy we wanted. My brother would play with all my dolls and he grew up to be just a fine man. I just thought I would share my story with you.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850>

Mar 22, 2017

Hi Andrea,

I found your story about your son very interesting! I am a nanny to two boys that are 1 and 3 and the 3 year old is very into the trucks and dirt but the 1 year old is pretty content playing with either the barbies or the truck. I personally never saw a concern for this but I did hear his mom say something about it. I think it's natural to feel that way since that is how we all grew up and it's what we have been taught to know!

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6707> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6707>

Mar 25, 2017

I to had a similar situation but with my nephew and my daughter. They are 2 months apart. I babysat my nephew for the first 3 years of his life while I was a stay at home mom with my daughter. I also have an older daughter. Needless to say my house was filled with "girl" toys and some "boy" toys. One toy in particular was a beauty station where the kids would pretend to do hair and make-up. Well, that particular toy was my nephews favorite one to play with, while my daughter on the other hand would be sitting on the floor playing with trains. Fast forward to now they are both 11. My nephew does all the "normal" boy stuff and my daughter is a "girly" girl. As a culture we are programmed to think that because this person is a boy they have to play with boy things and vise versus. I believe as a small child you are just playing because it is what you do and culture hasn't effected you enough yet to tell you what you are supposed to be doing because of what gender you are.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20188>

Mar 26, 2017

I can definitely relate to the cultural aspects of gender Andrea. Especially with parents who are religious. I think it is common to have those thoughts about our kids sexual orientation. I'm pretty sure my parents would frown upon my boys playing with girl toys. I think their religious beliefs and the time that they lived in shaped the way they see gender. I too learned a lot from the Harlow experiment. I felt like I was so uneducated when it came to maternal instincts. I thought it was totally biological.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>



Mary Moore

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/22484>

Mar 22, 2017



#### Mary Moore: Week 1 Discussion Biology and Human Evolution

In our world, we attach an inordinate importance of the attachment of labels. In my view when considering the realm of gender, I see that it is impossible to rely solely on biology for all our answers and ideas. Culture is of essential importance when ascribing values and norms. Normal in society needs to be considered on a very long continuum. Into the conglomeration of roles, stereotypes, expectations it is important to interject thoughts of the work of Abraham Maslow and his description of the hierarchy of needs. Basic are the physical needs of breathing, eating and sleeping. Higher level needs are more social like family, friendship and sexual intimacy. I believe your needs come wired with the equipment you bring into this world as is your personality or temperament that makes you a unique individual.

I believe it is wrong to assign expectations for behavior by gender. I applaud Dr. Meidonis' son for not seeing the pink stroller a "girls" toy; but something he perceived as an instrument of fun. I had a similar experience with my son when he was also about two, his focus was on a toy shopping cart which I bought for him. His father had a fit for buying him a girl's toy; but he had fun with it. I enjoyed reading about the Aka, I was impressed with the sharing of roles so completely. I had one question that was not sure about. I think in the film it was mentioned they were owned by the taller neighboring tribe. I wonder if this was so did it contribute to their deference to each other and not wanting to call attention or was it the reason they submitted to being "owned"? The changing world of today where roles and goals are changing could learn much from this culture. Parental roles are shifting to be shared experience which I believe is a good thing.

For my paper, I want to explore an interest in Native Americans. I purchased a book that I haven't had a chance to read on Oglala women. When I have read it I hope to have an idea that I want to research.

[◀ Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>



Julie Mulhern

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19335>

Mar 25, 2017



Hello Mary. I too enjoyed reading the Aka pygmy culture and see where a other cultures can benefit by adapting strong positive attributes from another tried and true ways. You mentioned that when you saw on the film where the Aka were owned by the "taller" people, I do believe it was just that. They are, in their, culture and through history, owned. They are obliged to perform and bring products to their owners and fear being cursed. In the text, it say that we shouldn't judge another culture just because it is not ours. I find it *very* different, but wow! It is what it is in their culture.

[◀ Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6208>



Jared Bratton

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6208>

Mar 22, 2017



I believe the relationship between sex and gender is similar. Sex has to do with biology and gender is the characteristics that a culture or society deems as feminine or masculine. I feel like they are the same because whenever I hear the word gender, i either think about a male or female.

Not necessarily by their masculine or feminine traits because babies are born with almost no defining traits so its hard to define them based on masculinity or feminist qualities. I agree with the definitions in a way, but not fully. I don't agree with gender definition fully because it does vary from culture to culture so there is no definitive definition to that. Gender is more influenced by culture then biology because like previously mentioned, different cultures and societies could have a different meaning for it. I do not think there are natural ways for men and women to act and society does hold everyone to that standard that they should act a certain way, but I believe that anyone can act how they want regardless of sex or gender. Who are we to say who can act a certain way? I chose the animal models and the read was quite interesting. I was aware that

many species had distinctive traits that involved mating or defense but I wasn't aware of the fact that man animals have multiple partners. I didn't know that there was infidelity among animals like there is humans. I agree with the author's position because scientists have done extensive tests and have figured out a lot about animal traits and there is no denying science!

I want to write my paper on culture and video games. I have always loved video games ever since I was a kid and it will be interesting to see how gender and culture will play a role in video games and vice versa. It's something that normally doesn't go hand in hand so this will be interesting. I doubt there will be many books to use as sources so I will be using web pages as sources.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850>

Mar 22, 2017

Hi Jared,

I don't personally play video games but I have been hearing more and more about how people are wanting different gender roles to start coming into play in the games. It will be interesting to see how or what they will change on the games to be able to achieve this!

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482>

Mar 26, 2017

I agree with you on the part that sex and gender can sound like the same thing. separating the two by different definition isn't the easiest task with out culture. Your topic with video games is interesting as i think generations without video games wouldn't be able to understand the phase of video game enjoyment. I also agree with you about the animal models, humans can really be perfectly compared to animals when it comes to sex.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>

Mar 22, 2017

The relationship between sex and gender is an intimate one that has far reaching impact in today's world. Sex is easy to define; I agree completely with Dr. Melidonis that it is biologically determined, including certain genitalia and chromosomes. Gender is relatively more difficult to define, I believe, because it is culturally defined and hence, can differ widely. Although the basis for gender is sex, I agree with Dr. Melidonis that gender is function of culture.

Examples of culturally-defined gender can be seen in Hewlett's study of Aka fathers and how they bond with their infants. I think this study challenged the so-called motherly instinct by showing how it is the fathers who hold and work with their children more than dads in any other society. Not only this, but the dads also show more affection than the mothers towards their children. I think that the way both men and women work together almost all day every day in their egalitarian society further shows that gender is more a function of cultural practices than biological characteristics. So really, there's no "natural way" for men and women to act. If there were, then men and women of all cultures would play the

same roles and the Aka father study clearly exemplifies that this is not the case. ("Stronger" men do the same work as the women; "natural" child rearing women leave that role to the men.)

I enjoyed Zuk's "Animal Models and Gender" because its biological examples showed that there is much behavioral diversity among males and females which may serve to help us better understand human gender differences. For example, the behavior displayed by female birds' in their preference for particular types of males can be seen as the "coy female" but it is actually a function of sexual selection (biological). Similarly, male birds' "extra-pair mating" which may be seen as the "philandering male" is actually more a function of reproductive competition (biological). Also, Harlow's experiment with the macaques was interesting as it demonstrated that females with little contact with other females did not know how to raise their own infants. Hence, mothering is not so much instinctual but much a learned behavior. This may be applied to immature teens having children, I think. This, I completely agree with Zuk that there are physiological and evolutionary differences BETWEEN females and males. The examples of differences AMONG females as well as differences AMONG males can provide support for gender differences among humans.

Regarding my research paper, I think I'd like to examine how sex and gender operate in the Mexican culture. Specifically how boys develop their sense of machismo or (radical) manhood, and how women's behavior serves to enable and even maintain machismo. It's always been of interest especially because i have a few family members who are gay and I'd like to better understand their identities.

Machismo and conquest: the case of Mexico. Marvin Goldwert; c1983.

Tenderness is strength: from machismo to manhood. Harold C. Lyon; c1977.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Jesus Cervantes](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603>

Mar 26, 2017

I agree with your post. I also agree with Dr. Melidonis that sex is biologically determined and gender is determined by the culture you are apart of. It definitely was interesting to see a different society where the father has more bonding than the mother, this definitely shows that there is no natural way for men and women to act. If there was a natural way for men and women to act then all the cultures would be the same.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Esmeralda Vilandeva](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>

Mar 22, 2017

I do agree with the anthropological definition of sex and gender, I feel like it is more based on culture rather than biology. I don't think men and women should have a certain way to act, just because we act a certain way here in the U.S does not mean men and women will act the same way in a different part of the world. For example reading about father-infant bonding was something different for me I had never heard of fathers spending that much time with their infants. I would always hear or see that the fathers were the breadwinners in the family and the mothers stayed at home to take care of the children because they have motherly instincts. The Aka father-infant bonding is important to them because they want to try to do everything to make their infants survive, that is why they the fathers are more affectionate and careful with their infants.

For my paper I was actually thinking of doing it on genderfluid, the reason for this was because I had a friend a couple of years ago that identified as genderfluid and I found it really interesting I want to learn more about it, especially how did they come about realizing they were genderfluid. I went through ProQuest to search for a scholarly source and I found an article by star tribune that I will be using.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19101>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19101>

Mar 25, 2017

I agree with you on the point of view towards a fathers role with infants. Living in a western society you are right, a fathers role with infants are considered mainly indirect. Infants are thought to be biologically adapted to their mother but with our society changing I can also see the shift in father infant roles. With mothers now returning to work after child birth fathers are now play a more necessity role in their infants life. I am very interested in your paper topic choice. I actually hadn't herd of genderfluid until your post, which made me research it. I have yet to learn more about this subject thanks to you.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482>

Mar 26, 2017

I think it is good to have certain ways for genders to act to build a civil society. It is a free country and people can just act they way they do. I like your topic. That sounds really interesting because topics with gender are usually to separate to line between male and female.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/24850>

Mar 22, 2017

Sex and gender are often thought of as one in the same. However, a fuzzy line separates the two, overlapping in some respects. In my opinion, there is more overlap then the anthropological definitions describe. In the week 1 instructor guidance anthropologists are said to believe gender is culturally defined, however I do not agree with this completely. I believe thatgender is mainly influenced by biology with some minor influences by culture. I think this is the case because our biology consists of the fundamental make up of who we are, including hormones that drive our behaviors. No matter the cultural impact, there always remains the genetic and biological make up that forms a large part of our identity; including our emotions, physical appearance, attraction to others and everyday thoughts. Now, given my opinion, I also recognize that culture does play a minor role, which explains why not all cultures follow the same rules as us. There are natural ways for men and women to act based on their instincts, formed by their biological make up, however I think the reason different cultures have different rules regardless of this fundamental science, is because they are faced with different challenges. In other words, a male or female is born that way and may instinctively act out that gender role, that is, until they are faced with circumstances that may change their traditional roles.

In the article The Cultural Nexus of Aka Father- Infant Bonding by Barry S. Hewlett, the author discusses the key differences in American father's interactions through vigorous play, as opposed to the Aka father's intimate care. Although Hewlett makes good points about the differences in interactions and benefits of both, I do not agree with the opinion of an entirely culture based analysis. I think biological forces should have been considered to explore the true importance of father and child interaction. His case only looks at the time spent between the father and child in each culture and the effects, however this is not enough to make a valid point, in my opinion, without exploring the important biological differences in women and men.

Also, for my Sex, Gender, and Culture paper, I am interested in writing about gender in the world of beauty. This would include makeup, type of clothes, etc. This is interesting to me because it has been an upcoming topic in this world as to what is acceptable and what is not. Makeup and style has been mainly a female dominant lifestyle but that is quickly changing. A source that I found interesting on this topic was "I'm METRO, NOT Gay!": A Discursive Analysis of Men's Accounts of Makeup Use on YouTube. which was found on ebscohost.com

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21807>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21807>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Madison,

I have to disagree with you on the statement you made about gender being more biological than cultural. Does our biology construct what pronouns we use to identify, what clothes we are attracted to or what job we will have? These social materialistic concepts have little to do with our biology, but rather the culture one is raised in/apart of.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394>

Mar 22, 2017

I have come to understand that the anthropological definition of sex is based on biology which seems pretty simple at first. However, the different combinations of chromosomes that can be matched up pose quite an interesting philosophical question. Does biology allow for more than a binary sex system? On the other hand, we also have the definition of what gender is. Gender can be defined as being based on the cultural influence impressed on a given individual (e.g. male, female, or androgynous aesthetic roles), who in turn expresses that role in a way culturally acceptable. This would be the definition of sex and gender through the looking glass of an anthropologist, one I agree with.

I believe that gender is greatly influenced by culture than biology. Culture, as represented through the social norms of any given time period, have dictated the way men and women were allowed to express their understanding of themselves, including their place in the world. It seems totally possible that a given individual born in a culture open to gender diversity is more likely to be open minded, than an individual raised in a strictly patriarchal society. Outside of human culture, the animal kingdom shows a great variety of sex norms.

Generally speaking, in patriarchal societies, men are the ones expected to make the first move on a possible female love interest. Sexually aggressive women are frowned upon. Most males may even respond awkwardly, since aggressive women are something alien in a male dominated culture. Other cultures are accepting of female dominance. One such culture where female dominance is openly permitted or "traditional gender roles" are openly reversed, would be in the BDSM, "Bondage & Discipline, Domination & Submission, Sadism & Masochism," (Merriam-Webster) sub-culture.

In the paper *Animal Models and Gender* by Marlene Zuk, a great example of female sexual aggression is documented. This female aggression is displayed by the female bowerbird which belongs to a species of birds found in Australia and New Guinea. This female species has total dominance of courtship and even possible sexual partners. All the male can do is look good and hope he gets lucky.

As for the theme for our upcoming sex, gender, and culture paper, I am going to focus on the BDSM subculture. This particular subculture is greatly stigmatized. I believe a lot of the practices found in the BDSM subculture include reversals of traditional gender roles e.g. female/submissive and male/dominant. The aforementioned aspect, plus the fact that not all BDSM scenes end in sexual intercourse (at least a professional Dominatrix). The rituals involved in setting up the scene, the psychological exchanged that takes place, all make this an interesting practice to at least be informed of. Many individuals turn to these practices as an alternative holistic therapy. I hope tear down the stigma associated with this subculture, while at the same time, entertaining the idea of possible field research.

Scholarly sources for the upcoming paper include:

Emily E. Prior. *Women's Perspectives Of BDSM Power Exchange; Electronic Journal Of Human Sexuality*. 2013 Ed. Vol.16. Northridge, California State University, 2013. Web.

Julie Fennell. *The Slippery Search For Kinky Sex*. The Sociologist. May 2015. Washington DC. The District Of Columbia Sociological Society & **George Mason University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology** (<http://soan.gmu.edu/>) y. 2015. Web.

Edited by [Fermin Salgado Jr](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394) (<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/10394>) on Mar 22 at 12:23pm

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20529>

Benjamin Reyes



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20529>

Mar 22, 2017

Sex and gender are different in my eyes. For the most part I do agree with anthropological definition of sex and gender. The explanation of the chromosomes explains how you could define the different sex between (male, female, intersex) when a baby is born. I believe that gender is more influenced by culture and not biology. There isn't a natural way for men or women to act and its proven by all the different men and women across the world. Mother and father infant bonding is equally important and i don't think it makes a difference between the mom or dad giving the bonding. For example if in family 1 the infant gets 100% bonding from only its mom or only its dad and family 2 the infant gets 50/50 bonding from mom and dad i believe it will have the same impact. I do agree with the author on this subject, the Aka explanations of the way they bond helps support my belief of infant bonding.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346>

Travis Seemab



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30346>

Mar 25, 2017

Hi Benjamin,

I agree that mother and father infant bonding is equally important. However, I disagree that it doesn't make a difference between the mom and dad giving the bonding. If the infant is getting 100% bonding from one parent and not the other then that infant is missing out or not getting enough of a need that they should be getting. From the research iv'e done and what iv'e seen in person, when an infant is brought my just one parent it has an affect on their life and how they develop. Even is the ratio is 90/10, that is still better than 100/0.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303>

Jillien Malott



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303>

Mar 26, 2017

Benjamin,

I really enjoyed your post! Well done. As an anthropology major, I find the various ways cultures practice parent-infant bonding to be extremely interesting. Parent/guardian infant bonding is a critical part of childrearing and can be found in human and animal cultures. The work of psychologists Margaret and Harry Harlow with macaques allows us to see just how crucial this bonding is for a child to be successful when it grows older. The macaques that were not allowed to bond and learn from their mothers were socially inept and unable to be successful parents themselves (Zuk 10). The same can be said for humans. Human bonding is critical to our success. Many researchers have come to the conclusion that a "chief part of human happiness arises from the consciousness of being beloved" (Brooks). Research continues to be conducted regarding the long-term effects of bonding deprivation!

Great job,

Jillien

Works Cited

Brooks, David. "Of Human Bonding." *The New York Times*, The

New York Times Company, 2 July 2006. Web. 26 March

2017.

Zuk, Marlene. "Animal Models and Gender." *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Eds. Caroline B. Brettell and Carolyn F. Sargent. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Pearson, 2013. 7-12. Print.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603>



Jesus Cervantes

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603>

Mar 22, 2017



I felt that the relationship between sex and gender should be as simple as being male or female, however, after the first reading I have realized that sex is determined biologically and that gender is influenced by culture. I agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender. I agree that sex is definitely characterized by chromosomes that can be male, female, or intersex. I also agree with the anthropological definition of gender, that gender is taught by culture. I agree with this definition because it explains the difference in gender between culture to culture. I believe that there aren't natural ways for men and women to act. I believe that the way men and women act is heavily influenced by the culture they are brought up in. This explains the fact that not all cultures follow the same rules and way of life. Mother-infant bonding in Northeast Brazil is a heart breaking situation with how many infant deaths occur and how their mothers do not cry or "grief, seeming to turn their hearts to stone" (Hodgson 32). The women have become accustomed to seeing many infant deaths per year that many children are not even named and have little documentation that makes it seem as if they never even existed. The author's position on this topic is that the death of the infants is "a pale reflection of the official indifference of church and state to the plight of poor women and children" (Hodgson 34). I agree with the author's position because all information leads to the women acting like this towards their children because the culture and social status and economic hardships essentially giving them no choice.

I plan on doing my Sex, Gender, and Culture paper on gender inequality in the United States. This has always interested me how differently genders get treated I hope to learn what might be the reasons for this to be the case. I plan on using the eBook Gender Discrimination and Inequality by author Healy, Justin published in 2014 as one of my sources.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9542>



Karla Ramirez

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9542>

Mar 22, 2017



I believe that gender is more influenced by culture. And there is not a natural way for men and women to act. Everything is shaped by our culture and surroundings. This explains why we are all different and we do not follow the same rules. In our culture we were taught that pink is for girls and blue for boys. When ever you go to a sex related event such as baby reveals is the norm to see blue or pink. Even on tv advertisements about toys. You will never see a girl advertising cars or boys advertising dolls. The research on the article father-infant-bonding states that father and infant bonding is as important as the mother and infant bonding which i totally agree because in other cultures the father takes care of the child.

On my research paper I'm undecided. What interested me was how in syria and other countries their culture does not accept homosexual people unless they go through the sex change surgery. And if you don't they kill you. A lot of people flee out of the home countries due to this conflict.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16603>

Mar 26, 2017

I agree with your post. Gender is absolutely influenced by the culture we are apart of, this explains the difference between cultures all around the world. I like how you made the connection of colors with our own culture. I wonder how toys would be advertised if they weren't using pink for girls and blue for boys.

 [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>

Mar 22, 2017

My opinion on the relationship

 [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4425>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/4425>

Mar 22, 2017

I see Sex and gender as two completely different things, sex is what determines your biological self but gender is what you would associate as. Although sex is binary, I don't believe gender is. Im sure we've all heard the phrase "one and the same" or something similar, well I take this as gender not being the same as the biological sex, these ideas that they are the same still come from our western beliefs; and when something other than the "normal" is brought up such as lesbians, gay, bisexuals and etc. those individuals are usually outcasted. I can see why some individuals in our society would want the biological sex and gender to be one and the same, its simple to understand and what we usually are raised to believe in. For example, a girl is born and the color pink is the first thought that come to mind, along with dresses, obedience and minority (to males). Anything different is not usually accepted, the individuals that are unaccepting might be thinking "I don't know what being transgender really means, I can't understand it and I can't relate, therefore it must be bad". Luckily we live in a world where being something other than your biological sex is slowly but surely being accepted. I do believe that gender itself is influenced by culture/religion, Navajos are just one of many cultures that have 3 genders called the third gender, and other cultures have up to five genres. In my opinion biological sex is what you're born with and had no say in it, but gender is more of who you are on the inside, your spiritual self. Gender is still so complex, its a gray world; I think we can all relate to both genders at some point, for example women being independent and leaders or even as simple a wearing pants is considered a "male" characteristic, while some men enjoy cooking, gardening or even showing emotions is considered to be more of a "female" characteristic; I think we can take and learn from both genders, because we can't be one without the other. I agree more with reading about the Aka people, 50/50 parenting would seem to benefit the child and raise the child to not have certain beliefs on male/female roles. For my paper I'm debating on writing about either the third gender within other cultures or Sexual Objectification.

 [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/26333>

Mar 22, 2017

My opinion on the relationship between sex and gender I would specifically say that it based on the person itself and what they feel comfortable with adjusting it amongs their lifestyle. Now a days society is very much different and some cultures have changed in forms that they adapt to the changes that the individual make. They label differences that may not seem the same others. Although I did say that gender and sexual bases in the person it self, i do believe that the gender and sex are more in the biology forms. Men and women are different people. Mentally, physically, and emotionally. Everything and everyone has its own set of mindset, feelings, and ways of viewing what they really are. I also do believe that whatever organs you are born with that should be your gender, your sex, what you have is what you are being respresented to the world as that. Even though with time it might and could change, that's still my opinion. For the most part if you come from a certain culture it will vary from different sources and choices that are within the surroundings of the individual. For example, if you're in house hold of catholic, or Christian, or Muslim whatever the case might be, you will be raised how the culture has raised them. All in all I believe that culture and biology both come in hand with taking a big part in the individuals choices.

Not all cultures follow the same rules that we do! For example, Aka and the role of women to be played at all times. From the beginning of the child's birth to the growing of the child and this is not is always done. In this culture, I have learned that, more father stay involved with the baby's birth then in any that I've done research in. That's one of the differences in the Aka parenting and the parenting that I grew up knowing which was the American/ Hispanic parenting. Which was the father always being more involved in the older toddler age simple because they didn't have the proper parenting or mentality to know that they'd be able to take care of an infant that's why the mother always took the role of the baby's birth. Which brings it all back to the cultural aspect that the father goes to work and the mother is a stay home mother looking out for the children while the father provides with the work and financial issues.

Part 2: I would like to put more interest on Abortion and the issues that are faced through different cultures. I am very interested in this topic because it's has gotten a lot of attention due to politics and what's been happening in the world with the ages differences and whether it gets to be legal or illegal within the age differences. I want to learn more about the views that women and young teenagers have in the aspect. I hav been looking for sources to give me the information that I'm looking for as far as culture and the questions that I want to have answered! The sources that I might be using would be:

## A Defense of Abortion

Judith Jarvis Thomson  
Philosophy & Public Affairs  
Vol. 1, No. 1 (Autumn, 1971), pp. 47-66

## The Rights and Wrongs of Abortion:

Philosophy & Public Affairs  
Vol. 2, No. 2 (Winter, 1973), pp. 117-145

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Erika Lugo](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784)  
(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>)

Mar 22, 2017

Hi Sophia,

I am able provide you with some first hand information on the topic of abortion. My personal experience and my view. Please feel free to reach out to me. I am an open book on this topic.

- Erika Hernandez

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Erika Lugo](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784)  
(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>)

Mar 24, 2017

im sorry Sonia\* Tapia \* for the typo.

-erika Hernandez

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303>



Jilien Marlett

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11303>



Mar 22, 2017

In American culture, sex and gender are often considered to be one and the same. But, ethnographic research of other cultures has proven that sex and gender are two very different concepts that do not always have a defined correlation. Only in recent decades have Americans begun to consider that the gender roles within their society are not related to biological ability, but are rather a product of preconceived cultural identities. This change in "perspective" greatly relates to the widely accepted and supported definitions of gender and sex that anthropologists have developed. Dorothy L. Hodgson defines sex as "[a] biological term designating a certain combination of genitalia, secondary sex characteristics (like breasts), and chromosomes" (xvi). Gender is defined as a "set of characteristics and behaviors that is utilized by people to categorize and understand sex differences defined in some cultures as masculine or feminine" (Melidonis). This definition is strongly supported by everyday American experiences (toy shopping with a child and having to decide between the "girl" and "boy" section; clothes shopping for a child and having to decide between the "girl" and "boy" section; the number of females in male dominated career fields i.e. construction, architecture, etc.). These experiences are connected to the "man" and "woman" gender roles in American culture (there is no biological reason young females should not play with race cars; young males should not have a baby doll to take care of; or females should not be construction workers or architects).

The gender roles of females and males around the globe vary. In America, fathers are not considered the "primary" parent of a child, yet within the culture of the Aka in central Africa, "fathers are available to their infants at least three times more frequently than fathers in other cultures" (Hewlett 45). American culture and many European cultures perceive males as the bread winner and females as the homemaker. In contrast, the females within the !Kung in the Kalahari Desert "provide two to three times as much food by weight as the men" (Borshay Lee 75). These are just a few examples of the diverse gender roles that can be found across the planet. These contrasting views of what is "masculine" and "feminine" prove that gender is influenced more by culture than biology. Furthermore, this variety clearly shows that there is no "natural" way for a male or female to function within society; an individual's function (male or female) depends on cultural and environmental factors.

Marlene Zuk uses animal models to further debunk this concept of "natural" male and female behavior. Within her article "Animal Models and Gender," Zuk elucidates that "[o]ne cornerstone of popular belief in a biological basis for gender-based behavior is that females instinctively care for their young. If maternal care-giving behavior is natural, then presumably all woman want to do it, know how to do it without learning how, and feel deprived if they do not" (9). Zuk tests this "belief" by referring to research performed by psychologists Harry and Margaret Harlow on infant macaques. When depriving macaques of mother nurturing/bonding under various circumstances, the Harlows recorded abnormal social behavior within the animals. The deprived macaques were more fearful and "incapable of caring for...[their] young" (Zuk 10). This study shows that the mothering instinct is not an innate characteristic of females. "Even a behavior as sacrosanct as the love a mother will have for her child depends on environment... the evidence does not support assuming a particular behavior in humans is 'natural,' even one as supposedly biological as mothering" (Zuk 10). Zuk's argument can be further built upon by analyzing why human females require lactation specialists when they have children, as well as by looking at adoption/Child Protective Services statistics as they relate to mothers.

For my Sex, Gender, and Culture paper I am interested in analyzing gender within the !Kung Bushmen culture. The Bushmen have a fascinating culture where gender roles are sometimes fluid and non-existent. Scientists "have determined that the human family tree is rooted in [the Bushmen]," which means their culture provides a glimpse at some of our earliest gender relationships (Krieger). Although various sources will be required to fully understand gender within !Kung culture, Ann Cale Kruger and Melvin Konner's article "Who Responds to Crying? Maternal Care and Allocare among the !Kung" provides me with an excellent foundation (see citation in works cited).

#### Works Cited

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Kruger, Ann Cale, and Melvin Konner. "Who Responds to Crying? Maternal Care and Allocare among the !Kung." *Human Nature: An Interdisciplinary Biosocial Perspective* 21.3 (2010): 309-29. *ProQuest*. Web. 22 Mar. 2017.

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◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

Mar 24, 2017

Wonderful work Jillien,

Great to have you in another class! I really liked your point about "mother's instinct." The Harlow experiments (as horrible as they were) and Nancy Scheper-Hughes' research demonstrated how problematic it is to think of human parenting as being innate. Clearly parenting is very important for humans and non-human primates but parenting styles differ significantly from culture to culture. If we think about this from an evolutionary perspective, it actually makes a lot of sense. Different types of parenting prepare children for different social contexts. The benefit of learning and behavioral flexibility is that they allow us to adapt to a wide range of different environments. Having a fixed identity would be a significant obstacle to human survival.

For your paper, you may want to check out Marjorie Shostak's *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Great job,

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11304>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11304>

Mar 22, 2017

I do agree with the anthropological definition for both sex and gender. Sex to me is a category of male or female, I agree with the biological sense. Gender on the other hand I perceive to be what one mentally leans on either male or female or etcetera. I agree because once the sex was determined one was given a social standing as either a male or female regardless if one agrees to it or not. Gender is definitely influenced by culture. For example, in Mexican culture the man is typically seen as a provider and as the macho man while the females are seen as housewives. Early on you distinguish the treatments given for each gender. I believe it's natural for men to be dominant because of biological factors such as testosterone although, it may or may not be so related to other cultures because there isn't an emphasis to it as there is some. Women take on the role of being mothers naturally because they carry the child for nine months and are expected to raise it. But as we read from our textbooks on the deaths of children in Brazil, that isn't always the case. I agree with what Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Marlene Zuk had to say about the monkey experiment. As we read on the instructor's guidance, female monkeys who were raised without mothers never grew up to have that motherly bond with their own offspring. We also tend to see this occurrence with children who grow up in abusive homes act detached with their own children later in life.

I'm undecided of what culture I'd like to write about for the paper but I'm thinking about the Navajo's third gender, nádleehí or on female bodybuilders. I'm interested in finding out the Navajo's beliefs on whom and what makes certain individuals nádleehí. I hope to learn about their culture and how nádleehi's live within the tribe. The source I'll be using for this topic is the following: Goulet, Jean-Guy A. "The `Berdache/' Two-Spirit': A Comparison of Anthropological and Native Constructions of Gendered Identities Among the Northern Athapaskans." The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, vol. 2, no. 4, 1996, pp. 683–701., [www.jstor.org/stable/3034303](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3034303) (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3034303>).

I'd be interested in writing a paper about the subculture of bodybuilding because I'm curious to learn what makes individuals strive for that body image. I have yet to decide if I'd be emphasizing on female body builders or both females and males as a whole. I'll be using this source for this topic: Reischer, Erica, and Kathryn S. Koo. "The Body Beautiful: Symbolism and Agency in the Social World." Annual Review of Anthropology, vol. 33, 2004, pp. 297–317., [www.jstor.org/stable/25064855](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25064855).

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30311>

[Ashley Sutter](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30311>

Mar 22, 2017

My personal opinion about sex and gender is that I agree with the anthropological definition of sex and gender. I believe sex is influenced by biology and gender is influenced by ones culture. As a Mexican men are usually the bread givers and women are stay at home wives. Therefore, men are seen as greater because they " act like men" by working for the family. We usually tend to judge a boy item because it's blue or girl item because it is pink. As how the professor explained about the boy wanting a pink stroller. We usually don't allow that because it's the wrong thing to do. When really they are just kids they don't know, all they know is what we teach them or what they grow up in. The boy ended up using the stroller as a car. I personally think you can't turn anyone into something they don't want to be. An example is someone being gay is already gay, you can't turn some one gay. Gender is biological not cultural.

As of of the animal models I believe a little one needs more of a mother than a father. A baby feels that warmth feeling and that safe comfit place. As a mother we connect with our children, we have that powerful instinct. Although in certain situation it might be the opposite. I believe you get attached to what you are around the most.

For my writing assignment I am undecided in what culture I want to look into. But for my sources I will go to the library and get some help on getting me started.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

[Aria Melidoro](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

Mar 24, 2017

Good work Ashley,

We will be thinking about sexuality later in the class. A lot more research needs to be done before we know how sexuality works exactly. There may be a biological component to sexuality but at the same time, we see that one twin can be homosexual while the other is not. Some research has suggested that sexuality may be impacted by epigenetic (environment influencing genetics) factors. It is possible also that some people are strictly one kind of sexuality and others have a greater range of sexuality. If we look historically, for example, it seems that bisexuality was much more tolerated in a number of societies.

If you need help with your paper, don't hesitate to contact me. Sexuality may be a good topic to explore!

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Luis Rodriguez](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Ashley,

I too am Mexican and can see that fathers are the bread givers while women are stay at home wive and can't see those roles changing anytime soon. Mexican fathers raise their children to be masculine with the way the should act and what they should and shouldn't wear. But as you mentioned, someone may be gay and you cannot turn him straight by raising him to be masculine.

Luis Rodriguez

◀ [Reply](#)

 [David Eiston](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/28614) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/28614>

Mar 22, 2017

1.) Sex and gender have always been the same thing to me growing up until recently. With the way our nation is going there has been a lot more talk about the differences between sex and gender. Sex is whether you are born a male or female. Gender is what you identify yourself as. You can be born a male but identify as a female or vise versa. I do believe with what was talked about in week one. I believe that as a society we influenced a lot of things though and that can also be a huge part of how we identify ourselves. In the past I believe that gender is more influenced by biology but as of recently it is more through culture which is why I said society plays a huge role in the way we act and identify. I know my opinion sounds a bit confusing but in my head I just see it changing all of the time. I have a friend who has always liked woman and as of recently has decided he wants to be a woman and has become a transgender. This is why in my opinion it truly depends. I believe that as a society we think there is a certain way for men and woman to act. For example men are constantly told not to be emotional and cry and to do the yard work and woman are told it is good to be emotional and to be the ones in the house cleaning. I personally believe that there are no specific roles and that as people we should do what we like and just be who we are but I definitely think society puts a label on men and woman, boys and girls. In week one there were many things that caught my eye but the main thing that caught my eye was the experiment by Harlow. He experimented monkey and the mother infant bonding. In one f the experiments they put a soft warm mother like object and a wire with food. As they said it chose the mother like object for about 22 hours of the day and only the food when needed. I find this to be true. I believe that we as humans tend to get close to our mothers and really attach ourselves so that we can feel loved. The second experiment he did was have the monkey be scared and that was fascinating because the first monkey ran very fast to the mother and became brave the second monkey did not have that mother there and was scared and tried to hide and became in its own world and never attempted to be brave. This was a very interesting experiment to me that I found to also be very true in humans.

2.) The culture I have chosen to write about is the African culture. I am not writing about the african culture because I am African American, it is because i believe the African American culture is more prevalent now more than ever. The continent of Africa is a vast one and it contains as many as 53 countries. Although essentially similar, these countries in Africa have

some subtle differences in their culture. Then you have the African American culture in the United States of America. I want to compare the differences of the African culture in America to the culture we have here in America. I am fascinated at the culture in Africa and why I myself and many Black/African Americans are so different. In Africa there are still tribes and rituals that have been practiced for centuries and here in America we do not practice those same rituals. I have just learned the culture of the clothing in Africa, Here in America the culture we African Americans have branded ourselves with is baggy jeans and wearing our clothes below our waist known as "Sagging". More so now we have begun to wearing skinny jeans have wear the most popular clothing brands we can get our hands on. In Africa I read that clothing is more to represent the tribe and yes they have high end clothing but the way it is worn and what it symbolizes it is way different than what we here in America wear. For example "Unlike the other people of the Mediterranean, who traditionally wore one or two big pieces of cloth wrapped around themselves in a number of ways, the Egyptians traditional clothes were nearly always white linen tunics that were sewn to fit them. Barefoot or wearing straw or leather sandals, both men and women wore eye shadow and lined their eyes with black kohl" (<http://jenmansafaris.com/>) 2017). That is just one example of the culture of clothing in Africa. I wish to learn more about the clothing, the religion, the rituals, the food and everything about Africa and what makes Africa unique. I wish to also compare African culture in the states the countries in Africa. Of course it takes a lifetime to study everything about Africa I just want to be more informed and be more aware and maybe change my beliefs and everyday activities.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19413>

Mar 22, 2017

I agree with you that society puts certain expectations upon men and women regarding their inter- and intra- personal behavior. It's interesting that you point out how because society is constantly changing, then so are those expectations. For example, infant rearing has traditionally been mostly the mother's role, but in today's society, don't you agree that there are many more dads who can be seen taking care of their young kids than ever before? So to say that we attach to our mothers to feel love is something that I disagree with. Maybe it's just that historically it has been moms that have been around more and as long as the children can participate in a caring relationship (as do the kids do with their dads in the Aka-father study), shouldn't they feel loved just the same?

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436>

Mar 26, 2017

Great choice of study David! I align myself with your views on the diversity in Africa. I had the opportunity to live in Africa three times for a total of one year. I was able to live in cultures that were drastically different from each other and only needed to travel less distance from Oxnard to LA. The richness of Cameroon rain forest culture compared to Somalia and then to Uganda was amazing. I really look forward to seeing your post on your subject on such a diverse continent.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655> 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

Mar 22, 2017

My feelings towards sex and gender are having two different genders male and female both being raised with same values but different ways on how to behave. Females from the beginning their born they are spoken to more emotional and tender, ex: "look at the doggy". Males on the other hand are more direct and firm, ex: "look at the dog." Those are little examples that i have seen and experienced with both sex, showing the difference between both sex, automatically since their born. To my knowledge all cultures for the most part have higher standard, rights, and privileges for the male than the female. I agree with sex and gender being split into two ways with all cultures. They tend to follow their own rules toward males and females. I believe gender is mostly influenced biologically because we receive that through the process when we are in the womb of a woman, being created by both genes from parents. The culture is a part of the gender yet some choose to go a different route and he/she has life experiences. Not all culture follow the rules that we have for men and women, but naturally all women tend to be emotional and men more firm.

### "The Cultural of Aka Father Infant Bonding"

Surprisingly I learned males take over and have the bonding with the new borns appose to the female. I believe thats a great idea and should be practice all over the world with all cultures. This will have a great change on the way everyone sees the mother/female, as always being the caregiver to the baby's. A father is just as important as the mother, as he is part of the creation of the infant/baby. The US for the most part have the father be the provider, bringing in the money, food, and expenses. This is part of the reason why they believe their bond is not as important as the mother. Because their too busy in their everyday working life they miss out on the special moments with their baby, making them less attached to their baby's. The Aka are much differently and do the bonding since the baby is born. I find this fascinating because I believe this will make the baby both love the father and mother equally apposed tollways wanting "mommy." A good point Hewlett brought up of why else men would have nipples? Because they may be used like the Aka have done, by having their infants play with them and use them as pacifiers.

**GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES:** This interested me because I live in the United States and have experienced gender inequality and would like to find out more about why this occurs.

**JSTOR:** Tam, Tony. "Sex Segregation and Occupational Gender Inequality in the United States: Devaluation or Specialized Training?" American Journal of Sociology, vol. 102, no. 6, 1997, pp. 1652–1692., [www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/231129](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/231129).

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/2994>

Mar 24, 2017

Good work Magdalena,

I like your point about the universal oppression of women. We will be thinking more about this next week. Although there are definitely more male dominated societies, we also see cultures where women have more power or share equal power.

I love your paper topic. Following the women's march in particular, this is a very interesting time to think about gender inequality in the US.

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

Mar 26, 2017

Thanks professor Melidonis, I look forward in learning about the cultures where women have more power.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>

Leslie Lerda



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>

Mar 22, 2017

It is clear after reading our instructors guidance and the course readings regarding the relationship between sex and gender is a relatively straightforward matter of biology and gender is a bit more complicated. Every culture can find a variation in the appropriate gender expression and some blur the lines between masculinity and femininity within a culture. Because of this I do agree that gender is influenced by culture rather than by biology. When it comes to gender roles or the way men and women act naturally it must be understood that gender roles have changed through time and will continue to evolve as we evolve. Gender roles are related to the division of labor for example male roles often include hunting, fishing, where female roles include child-rearing and more domestic activities such as cooking and cleaning. These gender roles are not set in stone because each culture has a complex gender ideology as a foundation. I found both the mother-infant bonding, and the father-infant bonding very interesting and how culture plays such a big role in the bonding. The articles were eye opening and gave me a different perspective of the roles a mother and father play in a child's life. I agree with the author in the sense that the bonding of a child in each culture is defined in different ways, but I do agree that American fathers can learn from the Aka fathers and have a deeper more meaningful bond with their children.

Selecting a culture or microculture is difficult because humans are of the same species, but they all act differently because human behavior varies worldwide. Each culture is different because people live in different conditions social, economic, and environmental. I think I am going to research the Italian culture because even today there are specific gender roles in an Italian family. Italian families are very close and follow family traditions from generation to generation. This culture is hard-working but at the same time play just as hard. It will be interesting to research the Italian culture.

Saverino, Joan L., et al. "Italians in Public Memory: PAGEANTRY, POWER, AND IMAGINING THE 'ITALIAN AMERICAN' IN READING, PENNSYLVANIA." *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian-American Lives*, edited by Joseph Sciorra, Fordham University Press, 2011, pp. 153–170,

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Chene Perry



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi leslie,

I really like your response of the breakdown of gender roles. I feel today gender roles are definitely evolving, where males are becoming the home maker and taking care of their children while females are out working and becoming the breadwinners of their family. It was not shocking when reading on the father-infant bonding because someone you really see fathers entering their childs life when they reach a certain age in infancy. But how the AKA fathers displayed their bonding with their kids was amazing.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347>

Luis Rodriguez



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347>

Mar 26, 2017

Hi Leslie,

In my initial post I mentioned similar things regarding gender and how it is based on culture. The women roles that you mentioned (child-rearing, cooking, cleaning) are now slowly transitioning into more men that are in charge of those roles. The same can be said about men roles that are now women's responsibilities. The AKA fathers sure did prove to us that fathers can be just as loving as mother are.

Luis Rodriguez

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8006>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8006>

Mar 26, 2017

I agree with what you stated about culture. All cultures have significant differences depending on how their society and economy works. Gender does rely heavily on culture. It is true that now men are playing important roles that women usually do. The aka fathers really do show how they care and love their infants. It proves that father and infant bonding is a huge impact which is truly meaningful.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/11482>

Mar 22, 2017

How i feel about sex and gender relate in society is that sex is naturally what you are born with meaning biologically while gender is the character and role in each sex based on traditions and norms. Sex plays to what you have been born with. This classifies you male or female, coming with hormones and organs. Along side With sex comes gender which is associated with male and female. sex can be seen as to what you have physically to use your reproduction.

Gender is based on what is seen to be a male or female. society usually has its norms to what are male or female traits. What is thought of as masculine is perceived to males like traits of dominance, controlling your emotions and boasting. Female traits, any that are feminine like, are supportive, more emotional and mother-like. In Gender roles, traits can meet equally for both male and female. Gender shows your identity in society, showing your traits in the world.

What influences sex and gender is mainly culture. Biologically we come with parts that need desire love and nurture. Culture influences what are these needs to desire love and nurture. biologically there is an influence although culture pushes that further along that line. From the animal models, culture can influence what is desired genes and and character traits the same way some species of birds desire to have longer feathers.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

Mar 26, 2017

Hey Hendrich,

We are born with whats giving to us by our parents biologically, defiantly agree. The support that comes with it as you mentioned is from our culture , to the way we dress to what we eat, that has a major part in our being as male or female. In my believe I feel that biologically we are more influenced than culturally, but respect your opinion. The way you express yourself whether you are a male or female is up to one, and if that means breaking away from the society traits than so be it.

◀ [Reply](#)

[Erika Hoge](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784)  
(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>)



(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>)

Mar 22, 2017

From my understanding sex is the genitalia we are born with and gender is a label. Sex is biological and gender is cultural. The relationship between the two has been created by society so that we can label people in to two groups. I agree with the instructor guidance because being a mother to a nine-month-old boy I also asked myself the same questions when I saw my son wanting to play with a pink stuffed animal. Growing up we are given toys and clothing that are gender specific. The gender label has strict guidelines and if you stray from them you are automatically labeled as different.

I believe gender is influenced by culture and the influence is everywhere. You turn on your phone and there are ads on how to be more feminine and masculine. I don't believe there are natural ways for men and women to act. I have experience working in elementary schools and the behaviors between the boys and the girls are very similar. They share toys without the concern of color or what type of toy it may be. This of course only lasts until a certain age because they are influenced by their parents and society.

The father infant bonding article is one that intrigued me the most and I could relate to from experience. As I stated previously I have a nine-month-old son and I am married. I see how my husband interacts with my son and it is how the author describes it, rough playing and only in the afternoons. He is a great dad but as the article stated that men in our society don't take on larger roles when it comes to parenting. My husband is great with our son he helps to change diapers, feeds him and reads to him. I always ask my husband for help he never takes it upon himself to tend to the babies needs. In the article the "Aka" fathers new the infant's moods and habits and most men in our culture have the excuse that they don't have maternal instincts. The article is a perfect example of how men are completely capable to care for their infants needs physically and emotionally.

I will be writing my paper on how society values birth and what support we give new mothers as a culture vs. other cultures. This topic intrigued me because being a new mother I felt as though I could have received much more support from my family and from my job. I would like see how other cultures support new mothers and what resources are available to them.

Ebsco: Leahy, Patricia. Journal of Clinical Nursing. Blackwell Publishing Ltd. 2011

[Reply](#)

[Estefania Pares](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20313)  
(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20313>)



(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/20313>)

Mar 25, 2017

Hi Erika,

I was also intrigued by this weeks instructor guidance. I remember from when I was a child I used to be given strollers, baby dolls, and barbies to play with, but I also have a brother who is 1 year older than me and I used to be fascinated about his toys too. In my mind as a child I didn't see anything wrong with a girl playing with cars, marbles, and video games. No one seemed to have a problem whenever I played with those toys. However, it was a whole different story whenever my brother wanted to play with my strollers or baby dolls. He would often be discouraged and talked down by family members and friends, telling him he shouldn't be playing with girl toys because those were for girls only. Hearing those words over and over again eventually led to my brother to believe that was the truth. I remember thinking lucky me I get to play with all the toys I want. But, now that I think back on those memories I can't help but feel anger and confusion. Why prevent a child doing something just because we're told we're told that's not what girls or boys should do. Aren't we just limiting their creativity and imagination? It's such a tough subject that I hope we can learn more from this semester.

[Reply](#)

[Marissa McComell](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/220)  
(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/220>)



(<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/220>)

Mar 22, 2017

My feelings between sex and gender is that they're two different things. I think that sex is what we are born as the two chromosomes that we are made up of. That is science based. Gender is the name that society has labeled onto the sex that we are born into. I think it is cultured based, opposed to scientific. Gender reflects a specific set of specifications you're labeling to a person. She was born a woman, therefore she should be dressed in pink with dresses and bows. There are no dresses for boys, because we have made outfits gender specific based on what society sees as fit.

Father-infant bonding is a interesting topic. In a society driven by women being the primary caretaker for the infant it asks the question how then does the father bond with the child? I think that it's hard for the father to bond the way the mother does because the father isn't able to do every thing the woman does. The woman carries the child for 9 months, the woman nurses the infant, etc. This would lead the father to have less of a chance to bond and as the author says it is the person who plays with the child. I don't know if this is truly accurate for all cases. Not all mothers carry their own children. Or breast feeds their child. In my opinion the bond is no less stronger than that of a mother who gets to do those things. I think bond depends on the amount of time is spent with that child, nurturing the child. I believe the father is completely capable of being even keel with a woman in this regard.

For my paper, I'd like to focus on the Amish community. I've always been fascinated by these communities of people and their way of living. I'm not sure exactly what scholarly source I will use for this paper, but I know I will use scholarly published papers on this topic using the library server.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Erika Lugo](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>

Mar 25, 2017

Hello Marissa,

This is a great topic and it was one I considered writing my paper on. I think learning about their culture and what drives certain members to stay is fascinating. I always find myself watching those reality shows on how some previous members of the "Amish" community help others escape. It seems as though its a very private culture and only those who have escaped are willing to share their point of views.

-Erika Hernandez

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Mark Mulher](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19436>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Marissa. Great views on gender and sex as mine align with that train of thought. Your last sentence of the second paragraph, referring to the father being able to invest and devote time to the child is what develops a strong bond. So, yes, agreed that the mother is able to nurse, carry and have different types of biological bonds with the offspring. That doesn't negate the father from investing nurturing time, and you conveyed that idea well.

Intrigued about the Amish as well! Every time I am in central Pennsylvania (family), I get to see towns that are more than 50% Amish. It's a total throwback as I wonder even what century I'm in. Pretty amazing, amid globalization, that these group are able to maintain there culture as they see important.

◀ [Reply](#)

 [Kelly Taba](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8006) 

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8006>

Mar 26, 2017

I do agree with what you mentioned about the aka father-bonding. It is true that women do have an advantage. They have main specific roles as a mother which connects them to the infant. The bond between a father and an infant is also important. The amount spent with the child is a truly deep connection which is significant.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30805>

TaraAnn Nixon



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/30805>

Mar 22, 2017

The relationship between Sex and gender vary amongst who you ask, but to me I believe there will always be a stereotype on women worldwide. So far I don't agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender as highlighted in week 1 instructor guidance and the course readings, but I'm looking to see if that idea changes later on. They're saying males bring competition and "weapons", but I believe women bring more of a competitive mindset than men. I believe gender seems to be more influenced by culture over biology. In some cultures Women are the males or the more dominant significant other. Yes there are a few natural ways for men and women to act; For example men should be kind to women, women should respect their bodies, women are neatly. Not all cultures follow the same rules that we do because English is of a newer age and most of the other/older countries look at women different.

Animal models and gender, I agree with the authors position because facts or strong opinions were given about some characteristics of men and women. Men being more dominant in many cultures/countries and women or lady animals being submissive, but not in insects. Also women are inclined, having more class or for say being treated like royalty like in an animal kingdom.

The culture I'm going to write about in my project/paper is Ancient Egypt, this culture is interesting To me because technology before phones and computers was still powerful or knowledgful for us as a humanity. I hope to learn how the Egyptians knew so much & how they brought intelligence to the whole world.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Charles Perry



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/3664>

Mar 26, 2017

I definitley agree with your opinion on how women are being sterotyped worldwide. Some see women as just homemakers and caretakers. But women can do so much more with their talents and should not be minimized.

I think your topic for your culture paper is awesome. Ancient Egyptian culture is very interesting. For my Archaeology class, I too are writing about Ancient Egypt but the underwater excavations of Cleopatra's palace.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16225>

Emilio Nunez



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16225>

Mar 26, 2017

Sadly the idea of male dominance still exist. While we have thankfully made some huge strides to equality, in the back skirts, there are still a ways to go. However, it is peculiar that this lopsided view is non valid in many parts of the world. Some cultures have the women scavenging while the men are home taking care of the local duties. A high respect has to given in these cultures in order to survive, lack of it may result in their demise. Nice excerpt and topic choice, Egypt surely completed feats that still many experts perplexed and dependent on theories rather than facts to explain the events taken place.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347>

[Luis Rodriguez](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5347>

Mar 22, 2017

Sex will refer to the biological differences such as the external and internal sex organs which are also based on the chromosomes. When talking about gender, it is usually related to the behaviors and characteristics based on the individual's culture. I agree that there is a distinction between sex and gender because men and women can play different roles based on culture. Gender is definitely more influenced by culture rather than biology. There is no natural way for men and women to act because roles change based on culture; for instance, the Aka in the Congo have the father-infant bonding instead of the mother-infant bonding that we are used to in California.

I will be choosing to write about the culture of the Roma, also called Gypsies. I hope to learn about their marriage beliefs and practices, as well as the mothers methods of raising their children. The link for the Ebsco source I will be using is as follows:

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.olibdb.vcccd.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=7&sid=0c087784-4270-4c5a-bbc0-8ecc1fc1cceff%40sessionmgr4007&hid=4101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtGjI2ZQ%3d%3d#db=pbh&AN=6723313>

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>

[Erika Lugo](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21784>

Mar 25, 2017

Hello Luis,

What a great topic for your paper, this is a culture that has intrigued me as well. I find myself watching those TLC reality shows about Gypsies. I can't help to think how strange some of their beliefs are. It would be great to know more about this culture and their religious views.

-Erika Hernandez

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16225>

[Emilio Nunez](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16225>

Mar 26, 2017

Culture definitely I believe shapes our mold greater than biology, which in my opinion only provides the basics. The idea of having a set in stone role to play is extremely outdated, generally drive from western thinking. However, if taken a more global approach, one can see that those views were never really accurate to begin with. The Congo men display a side in which many men from the U.S. at least deem as foreign. Nice excerpt and choice of topic, my ex girlfriends parents were Gypsies and they were most definitely interesting, but some of the nicest people i have ever met.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5767>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/5767>

Mar 26, 2017

Hello Luis,

I also believe that there is no natural way for men and women to act, because it is true on how each culture varies on the way men and women behave within their community. Writing your paper on Gypsies will be very interesting, the reality tv shows about this culture amazes me.

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588>

[Nikki Roxette Palumpon](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588>

Mar 22, 2017

I do agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender because they are both different things. Sex is a biologically determined set of characteristics. Gender is a culturally defined set of characteristics. Sex is what we are born as and gender is just what we are defined as by society. I believe that gender is more influenced by culture because culture is pretty much the beliefs and values that establish people's life. I also don't think there are natural ways men and women act.

Not all cultures follow the same rules we do because there are many different cultures in the world and they all have different beliefs and values. Some cultures have similarities, others don't at all.

The father and infant bonding is very interesting to me. I don't think the father has the same connection or bonding as the mother because the women are the ones that carry the babies in them for 9 months, they have to breast feed the infant, and the father can't do all that, so it is harder for him to have the same bonding as the mother. But, there are a lot of men out there who take care of babies alone. They also do play big parts in taking care of their children. They might not have that same connection, but they play an important role.

As for choosing the topics of my paper, I am thinking of writing about the Filipino culture. I grew up in a filipino household and followed some of the beliefs and values of the filipino culture so I decided to do a paper on this topic.

*Edited by [Nikki Roxette Palumpon](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/19588) on Mar 22 at 8:26pm*

◀ [Reply](#)

 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/6655>

Mar 26, 2017

Hey Nikki,

I also thought the father and infant bonding was a great way for fathers to connect with the babies. Not only do females but to males, most importantly, their presence and fatherly warmth towards the infant is just as important. As a mother I can agree those 9 months carrying another human being is incredible and beautiful, but because we have that extra time with them one on one the father should to. I believe if this is practiced with all cultures around the world, it can have a major turn around for males. It can make them more kind and gentle as opposed to always having to portray STRONG persona.

[← Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9953>

[Melissa Zamora](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9953>

Mar 22, 2017

I agree with the anthropological definitions of sex and gender because it isn't just black and white like other people may define it. Personally, I believe that gender is more influenced by culture rather than biology. There isn't a logical excuse to be made that a gender someone is/claims has to be biological where in many countries their traditional values are extremely different from what some people think is the right or wrong way to act as the gender you were assigned at birth. Animal models and gender jumped out at me and immediately grabbed my attention. I always thought maternal instincts applied to animals as well as humans but as I saw in the Harlow's monkey experiment that was not the case. That monkey didn't have any parental guidance as it grew up and that led to a confusion when it was having its own baby but its animal instincts still kicked in enough to make the monkey want to cling to another warm body as it would to its own mother if it had one.

For my culture paper I'm not sure what I'm going to write about just yet. I'm trying to decide whether or not to do it on being a person of color who had to follow very traditional values when I was a child, being a gay person of color, or a mixture of both since my ethnicity and sexual orientation is a minority anyways.

Edited by [Melissa Zamora](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/9953) on Mar 22 at 8:50pm

[← Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>

[Lissie Lerda](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/779>

Mar 26, 2017

Melissa, It is so interesting to read each of our classmates posts and how many different perspectives there are for this one question. I agree with you gender that gender is more influenced by culture than just biology. Because sex seems to be determined by biology such as our genetic make-up or chromosomes, gender has more to do with cultural upbringing than just biology. If we go back into our history books we can clearly see even in the United States that there was a time when women had to step into and take on a more male gender role. For example, World War II, a time when women were suddenly thrown into many male dominated fields such as industrial labor because men were at war. The poster seen everywhere which I posted in this reply is a great example of how gender roles were defined by a culture, and can be changed within that culture when needed. Women were encouraged to do work in the United States that was considered by society to be male-dominated, but because of the war women did these jobs without losing their identity as women; or the definition of what it was to be a woman, which had to change as a result of this cultural change. Sounds like your onto a very interesting cultural paper, I always say write about something that you can not only bring a fresh individual perspective from, but also something you can gain personal insight from as well. I enjoyed reading your post.