



This is a graded discussion: 100 points possible

due Apr 5

Week 3 Discussion Post: Gender, Power, Identity and Roles. (3 posts total)

37 49

Select a specific identity that is prominent in your culture or another culture that you are familiar with. Possible choices could include man, woman, child, worker, soldier, police officer, friend, student, CEO, husband, wife, African-American, Latino, Hispanic, Asian, Chicana/o, white, gay, lesbian, trans, asexual, etc. How do cultural understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality shape the roles that people with this identity can play within the society? Is this a self-identification, is this identification imposed on people or both? Does the wider society give or reduce power to individuals who are associated with this identity? Is it used to discriminate against or give power to people with this identity? In what ways? Are people reduced to this identity or are they allowed to transcend the boundaries of this identity? Is there a resistance movement associated with this identity and what does this resistance tell you about power structures within the society? If this identity is discriminated against, why do you think that people in the culture view it negatively? Identity is always political so please be respectful when completing your posts.

Complete your initial post by Wednesday at 11:59 pm and 2 responses by Sunday at 11:59 pm. Be sure to cite all of your work properly and use the course theories and perspectives to support your posts.

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[Zona Macaraeg](#)



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

Sunday

I would like to focus on the Asian community with both negative and positive connotations. First, the negative. I believe everyone knows when the Asian community is being discriminated against when it comes to driving. Whenever there is a poor driver and an "Asian" is behind the wheel, I usually hear someone saying "it's okay, that person is Asian." I feel like our society assumes that Asians are poor drivers. I believe this is very negative. I don't understand where it was derived, but although I am a Filipino, I am also known as an Asian to others. A positive thing I hear about "Asians" is how they like to be clean. Every time you enter their household, you immediately find shoes aligned near the door. Usually, you are assumed to take your shoes off so you don't dirty their house. I find this positive, although stereotypical, because it says that they leave a clean lifestyle and prevent ANYONE to come in with dirty shoes. These discriminating assumptions both take and give power. It takes power when one says Asians can't drive and gives power when people say they live a clean lifestyle. It all depends on how one likes to view things. These are just my personal opinions.

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21368>

[Tessa Randi](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/21368>

Yesterday

Amazing post Jona! I do agree I have heard about both of the stereotypes of Asians. Although I have heard the stereotype about being clean, I was unaware that is where taking off shoes outside of someones home originated from. Thank you, I learned something new from your post!

It really does depend on how one likes to view things!

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



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

12:54am

True your post hits it right on the nail, I think when people say asians don't know how to drive, i ask them well how did they get their license? it makes no sense I completely feel you on that.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



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

7:50pm

Good discussion everyone,

We really see here how these stereotypes can be very disempowering even when they are not true. The false perception can be very powerful. There is a common stereotype that Asian women are more submissive. In some cases, these stereotypes can contribute to sexual violence against Asian women. In Hawaii for example, we see a very high rate of sexual assault against Japanese female students studying abroad at universities. The stereotypes are basically encouraging some men to carry out these assaults because they believe that they are likely to get away with it or that the women will not resist. Some social scientists in Hawaii are trying to help protect these women through a range of practices.

Arion

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 <https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8867>



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/8867>

Sunday

When looking at gays/lesbians, there is many controversial conversations up for debate. As a Black/Latina Gay Women, there's many more things and reasons why being in an everyday society may not feel so "normal". My cultures "understanding" of sex, gender, and sexuality shape my role, as basically an outsider. Being a daughter is a normal role considering that I am a female I automatically fall into that role but, when I come into roles in relationships, I am a girlfriend which would be looked at in my culture as "normal" if I was a girlfriend to a male and not another female. The roles I contribute to my society could be looked at now-a-days as "acceptable" or more "normal" than they were say within the last 5-10 years. Within my cultures, the roles I play are majority looked at as "sins" and not "natural". My identity is self identified in the sense that I put it out there that I am a gay women, and was not influenced by my environment, people around me, or my culture. The wider society, outside of who I know and who I surround myself with, reduces power to men and women like me. Gay's are looked down

upon for the "choices" we make and who we choose to love and be with. In the US constitution, EVERYONE is given the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and not anywhere does it say that man and man or women and women cannot get married. If pursuing happiness meant to be with someone of the same sex, why was the gay marriage law such a big debate? There's a separation of church and state but yet state kept looking back on the bible and how it talks about man and man together. That is just one example of power being reduced. Now, as far as discrimination, you could say that comes with any minority group, even though it may not be as big as an issue as it was back in the 1900's, it is still a heavy issue in today's society. I believe that people still view this as negative because, it still hasn't been fully accepted and people haven't exactly opened their minds up completely yet. I also think that because it doesn't exactly "hit close to home" for many, that it's harder to wrap their head around the concept that I'm with who I love just like they're with who they love. My cultures really dig back to old school ways, where a man and a woman are married with children, man is the dominant one in the picture and does most of the providing and "holding down the fort". While the women of my cultures are looked at as more home bodies that nature and take care of the home. (not saying they don't work or anything just generalizing). So, for myself to be with another female, takes away that culture imposed role as man being a protector and provider because, in a sense either me or my partner will have to fill that role or even subconsciously split the roles up evenly, or maybe even just have the roles fall into place.

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Sunday

I loved reading your post! I absolutely agree with you. I can see the negative connotation people have against gays. I personally don't, but I also see it everywhere. It all depends on how people were raised or what society shows us. There are many advertisements nowadays that show that it is okay to love who you love no matter the gender, but I definitely agree on you when you say that it wasn't like that a long time ago. There are stereotypes on almost everyone, jokes or not, it all also depends on how that individual handles each situation. Thank you for sharing.

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Yesterday

Great post Mia! Thank you for sharing your story! I can't wait for the day that the gay community doesn't feel looked down upon. In your opinion, how can we help society be more open minded and accepting about the gay community?

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Yesterday

For this discussion I will choose wife as a prominent identity that is specific in my culture. There are many things that shape the roles that a 'typical housewife' can play within society. What makes someone 'wifey material'? There are a lot of stereotypes that we see in the media that shape how we view of what a wife is. Being a wife is both a self-identification and an identification imposed on people. Certain cultures it is used to discriminate against. For example some cultures think that being a wife means being a man's property. In other cultures, wives are glamorized. Who wouldn't want to be a Real Housewife? A person can transcend the boundaries of being a wife. A wife can also be a police officer, a CEO, a soldier or anything they want!

Since most wives are also women, there are resistance movements associated with this identity. There can still be inequality when it comes to being a wife. Most people don't view being a wife negatively.

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1:32am

I agree women in general need more credit, not only do they do "wifey material" things but they are our CEO our soldiers, our police offered they are so much more and you and all the other many women of america need credit.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

2:43pm

Hi Treesa. I like your choice of identity, but can you explain more about how being a wife is imposed on people? Is it like a man telling a woman a certain way to act as a wife? I was also hoping to get more from the resistance part of your post, only because I'm trying to get a better understanding in general. Your post was much appreciated!

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4:39pm

I never thought about using "wife" as an option and i am glad you did it. I completely agree with you. Not only am i a woman, but in the filipino community, bring a wife is presumed as being the stay-at-home mother (if kids were involved)/a chef/a maid etc... I love this. Being raised it the U.S also changed my opinions in so many ways as well as my mother's. She understands how different my generatiin is from hers and certain filipino customs arent always necessary.

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Yesterday

For the identity I chose a lesbian because I have a few friends that are lesbians so I have a good understanding. Cultural understandings have an affect on the role in the society they live in. They are looked at differently, lesbians aren't allowed to join the Armed Forces, until recently they weren't even allowed to be married in California. Males and females are both expected to play certain roles and act in different ways. Men are the ones who would hunt while the women would gather. "Anthropologists argue that females tend to forage because they are responsible for breastfeeding infants. Taking infants along on a hunt could be dangerous or disruptive" (Instructor Guidance). Women are expected to be emotional while men are supposed to be strong. I believe identity is natural and you are born with it, however it is capable of

changing depending on your culture. Most people will end up learning it through their culture. There is a little bit of both self-identification and it's imposed on people.

The wider society reduces the power to people with this certain identity. Lesbians are looked at differently, and they are silently judged. It is used to discriminate against people with this identity. For example, my friend's mom did not want my other friend to babysit because she knew she was lesbian. Similar situations happen all the time for gays and transgenders. It depends on the person if they're reduced to this identity. Some women who identify as lesbian will transcend the boundaries of this identity. Yes there are resistance movements. One movement is called the Lesbian and Gay Movement. "where there is resistance, there is power" (Abu-Lughod, 37), because there is resistance, lesbians still have some power in the society. People in our culture view lesbians negatively, they are made fun of because they are considered "not normal". In other words they are not part of the norm within our society.

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

[Shoshanna Ingersoll](#)



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

Yesterday

The identity which I have selected to investigate is a daughter. In American culture a daughter is understood to be a child born of the female sex to a family, or adopted into a family (as not all daughters are raised by their biological parents). A daughter may also be a child born of the male sex that identifies as being of the female gender and whose parents embrace this transition, an excellent example of this is the case of Jazz (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbg-LdVdNk0>). Jazz felt she was meant to be a girl from a very young age and expressed that she knew at her core she was a girl and her parents accepted this acknowledging she has never behaved as boy was expected to. A daughter in our culture is often treated differently than a son, from the moment they enter the world being clad in pink, and trussed up with bows. Regarded as "daddy's girl" or "her mother's daughter" we teach daughters from a young age that their own identities are intertwined with their parent(s). Whether or not a daughter takes ownership of that title or begrudgingly tolerates it is a reflection of how she regards her parents.

The identification of "daughter" is imposed upon children by those who take on the role of their parents, whether by birth, adoption or surrogacy. It is a role that dictates ownership as a parent doesn't refer to their child as simply "daughter" instead opting for ownership words such as "my daughter" or "our daughter" or when the child is not behaving one parent may tell the other it's "your daughter" to distance themselves from the poor behavior. Whether or not the role of daughter grants more power or takes power away depends widely on whose daughter you are. If you're the daughter of the school principal perhaps you have more power through this familial tie, but if you're the daughter of an illegal immigrant living in the US then your power may be threatened simply because of the role you have been cast in. Broader society generally grants more power to sons than to daughters. Family businesses are most often passed down from father to son, and brothers are taught they need to protect their sisters. Fathers "give away" their daughters to their future son-in-laws and task their newfound sons with taking care of their daughters.

Daughters may transcend the boundaries of their identity both negatively or positively with the actions they take. A daughter's actions will frequently be compared with their parents' reputation. A daughter who came from a broken home who pays her own way through school and graduates at the top of her class despite many challenges may be viewed as having "made something of herself" giving credit to the daughter for overcoming adversity. The daughter who is raised by a happily married middle class parents who are active church members, who then becomes pregnant as a teenager might fall below the expectations of others and be labeled a bad apple. To summarize as a daughter your role is closely connected with your family reputation; and expectations and/or limitations will be heavily influenced by how those around you and the broader society view your lineage. This means that a daughter unjustly receives, for better or worse, expectations on how she should behave based on her roots.

In American culture it is viewed as a normal stage of development that a daughter will rebel, undergo puberty and transform into a troublesome sassy teenager to whom the parents can't get through to. Growing up is a large part of resisting this identity as girls grow into women and struggle to find their own identities. A woman may be many roles beyond daughter and this simple act of choosing other roles is a sign of this resistance. A daughter can also be a mother, a friend, a wife, or be employed in any number of fields i.e. a teacher or a doctor. By expanding her identity to include more than just where she came from, a woman resists being forever bound by the role of daughter. However none of the roles a woman adopts can change she is someone's daughter in some sense of the word. As Professor Melidonis outlines in our instructor guidance regarding the relationship between resistance and power, "Abu-Lughod and many other anthropologists argue that these two are dependent on each other. We resist in ways that make cultural sense; even our resistance is shaped by our culture

and is often a part of larger structures of power." By this argument a daughter's resistance is influenced by the culture and the desire and ability to resist being limited by this role is part of the larger structure of power. If our culture encouraged women to simply accept their fates as products of their parents then women would be powerless. There would be no power without resistance and the resistance persists because our culture accepts it, and is often a driving force.

To add one more thought, the role of daughter universally and well beyond American culture denotes ownership by the parents. In America it gives parents the right to make decisions like what schools their daughters attend, how long their skirts can be, who they can invite over etc. In other parts of the world for example the story of N!AI of the !KUNG people, N!AI's parents had the right to give her away as a bride when she was a young child. Just how much power parents have over their daughters is dependent upon what is culturally accepted.

Source Citation List

Week 3 instructor guidance

Jazzmergirl. "Story of Jazz | A Transgender Child." YouTube. YouTube, 28 Oct. 2014. Web. 05 Apr. 2017. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbg-LdVdNk0>>.

N!ai, the Story of A!Kung Woman. Dir. John Marshall. Documentary Educational Resources, 1980.

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



Kayla Teale

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

2:25pm

I truly appreciate your post! The part explaining where daughters resist from being just daughters by choosing their roles was a great way to explain resistance and it gave me a better understanding of the term. In my post I pretty much explained how I am a daughter and what my roles were around the house. In a way I can say the resistance for me was finding a job and continuing school to break away from those roles.

◀ Reply

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



David Liston

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

12:48am

In the black culture which is the culture I am apart of an identity that is becoming not only more prominent in the black culture but society as a whole and that is the lesbian and gay people. I can not speak on how the culture handle this other than what I see on the news, but I know being a black man in my household and culture we are not suppose to like the same gender. we are imposed at a young age to not be gay or be lesbian. Its not hurtful of out of spite and we as a culture love the LGBT community. But for some reason when it is a child of a black mother or father its harder to understand in most cases. I have seen In many Black household the child identity are imposed by the parents, not instinctively, but because black parents do know how to react. Black parents feel as if since there is already discrimination against there child now what is going to happen if he/she is gay. The LGBT is power and it is big but the seed starts in the house, and some kids are so affairs of coming out to their parents that they just force themselves to be something there not which reduces the power and voice of the LGBT community. Los angeles has 88 cities if 20 kids hide there identity because of parents or social norms, or even because society is against them that is over 1,500 people that voices aren't being heard now just do the math for America. The LGBT community is a safe haven for kids and adults all over the country, especially for black kids that family dis owned them. That LGBT community becomes there family and even if that person is to shy to voice there opinion the community that is surrounding that person is still one person stronger. I would like to see more Black americans step out and step up, it is difficult being black and gay. Im Black and straight and I already have stereotypes of what I'm suppose to do and how I'm suppose to act, and that hurts me, I can only imagine how a person that is gay would feel. This identity is not viewed in a positive or negative way in my community we just try not o acknowledge it and act like it isn't there. As a

society i eel we view the LGBT community as a negative because it goes against the grain. They do are some of the most bravest people on the planet.

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

[Jared Bratton](#)



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

5:16am

I am going to talk about the transgender identity. Even in this modern of a society where gay marriages are now legal and partly accepted throughout the world, you would think that other identities would be widely accepted also right? That is where you're wrong. The transgender community is still not widely accepted like other identities are. Our culture frowns upon changing the gender you were born with, to the opposite. Most of society does not accept transgender people for who they are, they ultimately believe that they are going against God's will and whats in the bible. I believe that it is both self identification and identification imposed by the people. I think that the transgender people want to identify themselves separately from everyone else because they think that they are totally different. Society identifies them negatively such as uses of bad phrases or harsh words. The wider society definitely reduces power to these individuals, in fact they often don't want them to have any power at all. It is used to discriminate against against them because they portrayed as lesser of an individual. Transgender people are looked at differently and they are more often judged and portrayed in a severely negative way. They are given the same rights of people by law, it's how society's view them which is bad. They are able to transcend to boundaries but not many people will accept them for it. There are resistance movements associated with this identity because society does not want to see this progress. Society is very powerful in their own ways. Basically if you're not whats considered "normal" and will be shunned away from that society which is wrong and sad. I think people view it negatively because a lot of people believe in the Bible, what it says and preaches. People believe being gay is considered a sin and that's exactly what people consider transgenders to be doing.

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[Andrea Resendiz](#)



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

10:30am

I'm a 21-year-old Chicana college student. I was raised in a not so strict Mexican household. My siblings and I were limited in doing many things others were doing. I'm also a mother to 1 year and 7-month-old boy, and I've been together with his father for 6 years. I work full-time as a cashier. Growing up in my family my older sister and I had a big responsibility that was to watch over our younger siblings, while our parents worked. Mostly it was when my parents left to work in the mornings, and after my siblings got out of school. We were in charge of feeding them, dressing them, making sure they had all their stuff for school ready, and getting them to school on time, while getting ourselves prepared for school too. After we got out of school, we'd get home and made sure they had a snack, and start a daily routine of cleaning, and making sure they started their homework. I've seen not just in Mexican household's parents tend to leave a lot of responsibility to the older siblings to watch over the younger ones. Was it something bad? I never saw it as something bad, I felt it was a help for my parents not needing other people to watch us when my older sister and I can do it.

In my job, my position is cashier/waitress. Mostly all the cashiers are females. In the back, it's mostly males that are the cooks. When I first started working I wondered, why don't they have any female cooks in the back? I didn't want to ask the cooks at first, because I felt their responses would be discriminate, or just plain stupid excuses of how males are better than woman, etc. But no, one of the cooks just said there's a lot of heavy lifting when unpacking the inventory that comes in, and when they are prepping the meat and chicken the boxes they put them in to marinate are heavy too. I found it a bit funny when he mentioned that, because in my previous job, I worked as both cashier and prepared and took out food orders. Women cooks were asked to do the same job as the male cooks. There was a lot of heavy lifting, but we were all there to help, when needed. Was the cook at my job right now telling me the truth about it would be better that there were just men in the kitchen than female do to the heavy lifting? I know not ever businesses are going to be the same when hiring certain people for a certain

position. I brought this subject out because I found that in my restaurants, many cashier/waitresses are females, while in the back they're males. Now think about it a little, in our previous assignments we were ask to talk about the roles woman and men play. How is it that in some cultures the women are meant just to cook, clean, and watch over the children, while the men just work? But when it comes to going out to buy food, you see most men in the kitchen and women in the front? I thought the women were meant for cooking? Yes culture and restaurant businesses are two different things, but I find that this grab my attention.

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

Mark Muench



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

1:20pm

I am a civil engineering tech. I specialize in soils analysis, land/Geo-spatial(GPS)/construction surveying and also am proficient utilizing Auto-CAD when drawing architectural, structural, mechanical plans. My goal is to achieve my Civil Engineering degree and become a professional engineer. Although, it has been a long and winding road. I was born youngest of eight children of German descent in NW Iowa in a place I like to call, "the cornfield" (pun intended). It was much work and little fun and I knew that if I wanted an engineering degree, I'd have to work at it as the family funds were going to be cut short for college finances. So, I signed up for the military 10 months before 9/11 in order to serve my country and earn a degree (financially) in the process.

Since, it's been a tumultuous ride, but an interesting one. I entered the construction arena where out of every 100 males, there were 1-2% females in the field. Since 2000, I have witnessed a huge change in this arena, not just in the field, but more prominently in the engineering offices. I would have to say that now, the engineers with professional engineering licenses are around a 40:60 ratio female-to-male. There has been a massive uprising in the involvement with females in the field of work. The ratio is still much lower on laborious construction work and now I have to question myself as to why the females are only making massive strides in leveling out the demographics at the engineering level. Is it because females are perceived to not have the strength or dexterity for physical labor? I can attest that the majority of the workers chide, "work smarter, not harder", so brute strength is mostly a thing of the past and even more so, federal law imposes safety lifts at 45 pounds. The perception is male domination in the arena of physical construction work, but less so with office and engineering type work. Women can't work outside? Referring to Lila Abu-Lughod in her article, *The Romance of Resistance*, she dispels the allure of more materialistic attractions of society, to include domestics, maintaining healthy skin (sun burn on the jobsite) all while maintaining that the burqa enables them to conform to elder rules of Muslim heritage. As they proceed in economic globalization, they changed how the male/female dynamics work in their society. Not to get too far off subject, but necessary, you can see how the dynamics of the Bedouin society changed in the very recent events. I have visited the Bedouins in Jordan, and seen there nomadic tent camps and I can attest that the culture as written in 1990 has definitely changed. It is threatened to exist in the future as the norms change to women maintaining allure via negligee and steer away from subsistence survival.

Here too, the norm is for women to maintain attractiveness. There will remain a huge workplace disparity among construction site workers as this promulgated argument ensues. Many construction workers seem not to worry about the health of their skin or roughness of hands as this is seen as a suitable (often necessary) result of their jobs. They are proud of it as they get sheer enjoyment and job satisfaction from construction. Seeing something rise out of the ground expresses my passion from when I was a young boy. This identification has been imposed by society, mostly through historical precedence and even media advertisements. No girl owned a Tonka truck, or seen one on TV, much as their were no boys playing with Barbie as an testament to Elizabeth Chin argument on ethnic Barbie. Why did Barbie never choose construction work as part of her many career achievements? Can this be discrimination or is it simply that there are virtually no women wanting to work construction as a carpenter, mason, plumber, earthwork, etc.? I do believe our society are pulled woman away from this field as an undesirable profession as it may be "unattractive" on a woman. Where there is power, there is resistance. But as the boundaries get expanded in many other professions and promotion of egalitarianism in our industrial and civil society, this one seems left behind. I pose two possibilities: this profession is "rough" on the body in which we instill societal norms of "gracile" for women; this profession has had a rash of incidences of intimidation to be "too rough". What do you think?

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

Kayla Tonolo



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

1:50pm

I want to answer the first couple of questions at the beginning of the Instructor Guidance to help me get through this post since I am having trouble understanding the other readings.

I am a student currently working at a high school as the faculty secretary. I am a daughter, sister, and a girlfriend to my boyfriend. I guess I am choosing myself as the specific identity, a female American Samoan.

Since I was raised here in the states I am not too familiar with how my culture identifies with women, but within my family there are definitely differences between the sexes. I have four older brothers so I am able to compare those differences. One example is how lenient my dad was towards my brothers when it came to going out with friends and things like that. I wasn't allowed to do much of that at all. When two of my brothers had kids, going out for me was not an option. Since my brothers were working and their baby's mothers as well I was left to watch their kids, my nieces. Even when my brothers were home my dad still wanted me to change their diapers and make their bottles. Maybe this was my dad's way of keeping me from having kids myself. Totally worked! Now that my nieces are older and I am as well. My main role in my family is to contribute as much as I can with bills and such. My dad has always wanted me to continue my education so that has never been an issue for me. Having a job and being as independent as I can is ideal in my family.

Do I believe this is self identification? I don't because in some cases my role in my family at least was one I did not agree with. To my understanding, I think identification can imposed on people, but not necessarily accepted by them.

As far as the questions about power and resistance, I am in need of more explanation. I found myself being confused by the ideas. If anyone can help me out as far as explaining what is meant by resistance, maybe an example that I can relate to.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Keny Tana



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

2:24pm

I am half Mexican and half Egyptian and I see the struggles from both sides of the culture. It is sad to see women from both cultures suffer based on their gender and sex. Within the society, I feel like most people

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Kelly Taha



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

2:40pm

I wasn't finished with my post.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Karla Ramirez



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

3:16pm

In this era of time gender, power, identity and roles have been at its peak for most generations. For example, coming to America as an Immigrant from Mexico I've had the experience from other ethnicities and groups of portraying how my life should be. As a Mexican "I should work in the field," and "drop out of school and have a wealthy number of children". I believe that a wider society will reduce power of minority groups. This is used to discriminate against Mexicans. For example what's going on right now with our society people think it's okay to discriminate people based on their skin color or even legal status. Even that we are a minority we resist against any type of discrimination. It makes me upset how people can be so inhumane and make comments to hurt other human being. Not all Mexicans are rapist or killers. Some of us are hard working people that can work whatever job. I hope that we become one united society.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

5:10pm

I am half Mexican and half Egyptian and I see the struggles from both sides of the culture. It is sad to see women from both cultures suffer based on their gender and sex. Most women in Egypt must wear a hijab because of their religion and it is based on their customs. "Abu-Lughod argues that people in the West often perceive Muslim women as being disempowered simply because of their practice of veiling (wearing a Burqua)" (Melidonis, Week 3). In their eyes, they see it as a way of empowering themselves and their religion as well. It is their decision to wear a hijab in public if they decide to. Some people just don't get that and they just decide to judge them based on their outfit and appearance. Their culture embraces certain things that go by custom. There is a lot of stereotypes based on Muslims that have to do with terrorism. It's disappointing to see how some people discriminate against all the Muslims just because of a certain event. It doesn't mean all Muslims are bad and want to cause harm in the society. I'm not Muslim, but if I was I would probably feel offended. In the Mexican culture, there are many minority groups that are being discriminated. Today's generation within the society some people are being very judgmental and discriminative of certain ethnic groups especially based on their race and color. "Resistance is a diagnostic of power" (Abu-Lughod, 37). Hopefully, our generation changes over time and people will learn to accept people for who they are no matter what race, sex, or gender.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

5:20pm

Father is the prominent and specific identity that I am familiar with. I had one and currently am one. I think cultural understandings of sex, gender and sexuality do not really constrict the role this identity can play within society. I can not think of a role that a dad might be limited from. This identification is both a self-identification and imposed. Once the child arrives you now have that identification. There are times that you might be without your children so at that point you would need to self-identify so people know that you are a father. For instance I have pictures of my kids in my office and often self-disclose that information with people I work with.

As a father I feel that the wider society gives power to this identity. I often feel empathy from people and respected when they find out I am a dad. It is almost as if there is some validation that I am not a dysfunctional human. I also do not think being a father is something that would be used to discriminate against this identity. I have been both a single parent and married with kids and never felt discriminated against in either role. As a father I do feel that is something I can wear as a badge of honor, so in that way I do feel that there is power given to that identity.

I do feel that people are allowed to transcend this identity. As I mentioned before it is something that you can self-identify as so you can move about society without people knowing your identity if you so choose to. In fact many fathers have walked on from that role and left their children and in that instance would no longer be bound to that identity. I do not believe there is a resistance movement associated with this identity. This tells me that as a male you might have more power within our society. Being a good dad is something to be proud of, adversely making a mistake as a dad seems almost okay. Meaning if a dad messes up it is almost laughed off since it is just a goofy dad mistake. I think we might have more grace than mothers who make parenting mistakes. I guess an example of what I am talking about is if a father shows up with his kids and his daughter's hair is a mess most people probably think no big deal, but if a mom shows up in the same scenario people probably think "bad mom."

Since I do not think this identity is discriminated against I would theorize that it is because we live in a male dominated society. In this instance being a father is something to be proud of and often romanticized in the media. I think of the hot single dad in movies that women fawn over as he pushes the stroller. I will be curious to see if anyone sees any of this differently.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



Vanessa Delgado



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

5:44pm

A specific identity that came to mind was third gender individuals, those who embody both the male and female gender and dress as both male and female, they also associate with "they" rather than "he/him" or "she/her". When we see someone who is third gender in public we sometimes get confused if they are male or female, this person can have characteristics of a male but also breasts, that's because some third genders decide to take hormones but also decide that there is no need to remove their genitals because they are not choosing only one side of the spectrum but they are in the middle. Western cultures are not very fond of third gender, or anything really that's different from our binary genders of male and female, with western culture we are to embody the gender we are in based on our sex, with third genders they are definitely outcasted because they are unable to just choose one gender, they are both and that is how they wish to be identified as, so it would impose on others who are not as accepting of others or who are not open minded to what else is out there. It's tricky to say that others who associate with this identity would have reduced power, I guess if this person had other friends, family, coworkers who were not accepting, then they would ultimately reduce power because that person is now associating with someone who is too different for our western culture. Although we are still western based, there are areas around the world who are associating third gender into legal documents, instead of listing male or female as your gender, you are able to list "other" or "x", hopefully soon all areas around the world will use this third mnemonic into documents such as school forms, job forms, IDs, passports and etc. in order to better accept third genders.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



Leslie Lerda



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

5:51pm

I was raised in a pure Italian large family with many stories handed down from generation to generation regarding the Mafia organization who have constructed an identity within their own society. The organization is how they are referred and are identified by families and territories in a tight structure, which relies on the loyalty of their members and their abilities to understand the structure of the hierarchy. The cultural understanding of sex, gender, and sexuality roles are clearly defined within the Mafia starting with the Mafia boss, who sees himself as the head of the family, or lifted up to the same as a God. There is a systematic oppression within the women of the mafia caused by a cultural polarization. The women have a passive status within the mafia confining themselves to social roles as wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters offering support within the organization or family. The children are raised to stay in their lanes within their gender roles defined above. Each had a duty to support their culture which includes honor for the family and vendetta to defend the family, these are known as codes of the organization and the fabric of their social constructed lives.

The Mafia members have a sense of absolute identification that is communicated in beliefs and the internal system of values which are usually the opposite of civil society and the rules within them. Operating as lords over life, even while enforcing death, the Mafia's rule over its territory remains absolute. The Mafia's social control, whether deliberate or clandestine, is everywhere in society and those who are identified within their culture are often seen as a negative dark organization that is corrupt and uses blackmail and force to keep its culture in line. Those members that choose to resist either find themselves dead or having to start a new life under an alias. I believe that this culture is viewed negatively due to the continual efforts within this culture to take down others to prove their power or to take over territory. There is a saying within Mafia families from the fathers, "I gave you life, I can take it away". That statement alone communicates the identity of the culture and those who are born or married into it.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Berenice Canbay



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

6:29pm

The identity that I relate to in my culture is that of a Latina. The role that a Latina typically plays within the culture is that of an obedient housewife and or good daughter. They depend on the male figure for income while she tends to the children and the home. I'd say it's an identity imposed. The identity is imposed at a very young age; we're typically growing up with the idea that we're supposed to learn all these talents to become good wives although not always the case.

It is also being reinforced with older adults who practice this cultural norm. I don't believe it's used to discriminate the females but it also doesn't allow for much power either; in a world with machismo, we're believed to need saving. Things are surpassing old traditions; parents are encouraging both sexes to get an education before settling down and procreating. The resistance I've noticed is that less and less people feel the need to get married which ties into the article "The Romance of Resistance" by Lila Abu-Lughod where many of these girls fought against being married. I believe its saying that we as females want much more than a limited lifestyle.

The resistance also states that we're tired of having to live behind the shadows of our significant others but also living in grips to our sexist culture. It may be seen negatively by younger generations because not many of us want to rely on someone but become something of ourselves. We also see how unequal we're treated compared to our counterparts.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Jillien Marott



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

7:02pm

"Woman" is a complex identity within American culture that is heavily influenced by cultural understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality. Very few members of the culture consider the identity of "woman" to be separate from the biological identity of "female," further perpetuating the belief that there are "natural" (limiting) roles for women within the culture (this is discussed further when analyzing identity discrimination). A woman's sexuality (as well as her promiscuity or lack thereof) is perceived as something that determines her value within the culture. For centuries, a woman's power has been linked with controlling her sexuality (emphasis of virginity, does not have multiple sexual partners, etc.), while the identity of "man" has correlated power with sexual prowess (frequent sexual partners). American culture is just beginning to accept the idea that the identity of "woman" can be accompanied by different sexual orientations (lesbian, bisexual, etc.), and that a woman's power may be centered upon embracing her sexuality and personal pleasure. Although these changes are occurring, women continue to experience the repercussions of violating "controlled sexuality" standards, specifically with the roles they are allowed to play. A woman is considered unfit for the roles of mother, wife, girlfriend, teacher, etc. if her sexuality is considered "too prominent." The identity of "woman" is both a form of self-identification and an identity imposed upon one by society. As previously mentioned, American

society links the female sex with this identity. It is placed upon all females who have gone through puberty. Furthermore, one is able to self-identify with this identity if it correlates with her personal perceived gender.

The wider society of American culture reduces power to those associated with the “woman” identity. Discrimination and judgment are rampant, and many women are pigeon holed into the jobs that are considered “most natural” for them: parenting, homemaking, working with children, etc. The fact that a woman’s physiology, social role, and psyche are considered closer to “nature” has made it nearly impossible for women to obtain positions in the male dominated, cultural sphere (Ortner 9-12). Women are looked down upon for choosing to work outside of their natural, home territory. Additionally, those with the identity of “woman” receive lesser pay than for those with the identity of “man.” “On average, female workers make 22% less than a male for doing the same job” (Melidonis). Stigma surrounding the female reproductive cycle hinders a woman’s ability to acquire the same job as a man. The American political arena is dominated by men; women are ridiculed for trying to become a part of the political world, which only further discourages them from trying to join it. “A woman enters into a man’s world of politics, into back-fighting and grubbing. Before she puts her name on the ballot, she encounters prejudice and people saying, ‘A woman’s place is in the home.’ She has to walk a very tight wire in conducting her campaign. She can’t be too...mousy. Also, she can’t go to the other extreme: belligerent, coarse, nasty” (“Identity: Changing”). The identity of “woman” is held to a different standard than the identity of “man.” Wider society perceives “that woman politicians... [can not] manage both a career and family” (“Identity: Changing”). The importance society places on women being a part of the private sphere mixed with women’s desire to be a part of the public sphere has created an unobtainable “ideal woman.” “The ideal woman has now become the concept of the super woman, who is expected to complete all the tasks of an ideal woman of the 1950s while maintaining the career goals of the modern woman. The combination of the two has resulted in an ideal that is perhaps so far above the reality of women’s lives that women themselves will continue to struggle and struggle but never attain it” (Holt). This unobtainable goal that American society is constantly pushing upon women reduces the identity’s power even more. Women fight to transcend the boundaries of their identity, but to no avail. They are reduced to the identity in such a way that disregards any of their other identities. The widespread discrimination of the “woman” identity is a result of American society’s negative view of the female sex. All forms of American “woman” identity discrimination focus on how the identity is inferior to that of “man.” This belief stems from the patriarchal, Judeo-Christian founding of America.

Resistance movements spearheaded by women are quite prevalent in American society. Women are constantly fighting for their rights and making their voices heard. Public marches, rallies, petitions, and protests are often organized. But, resistance movements do not solely occur at the national level; many women are taking individual action. More and more women are pushing to become a part of the cultural sphere men have been linked to for centuries. Women are striving to become surgeons, lawyers, politicians, architects, and executives. “Women... are now better educated than men, have nearly as much work experience and are equally likely to pursue many high-paying careers” (Cain Miller). These various forms of resistance are “diagnostic of power” within American culture (Abu-Lughod 37). Each movement is clearly focused on the “woman” identity becoming equal with the “man” identity. The fact that resistance movements are still prevalent means power distribution in American society is still heavily in favor of men; “woman” continues to be discriminated and repressed by “man” to ensure men remain the only power source in the culture.

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

Christian Quiroz



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

7:12pm

In our society I feel that women who are in a role of power such as women policer officers are not respected and often times seen as of less authority than their male counterpart. In the culture and society that I grew up in, women were seen as more vulnerable and more understanding, nurturing, protective and let things go (often more lenient). Women in the Latin culture are seen as the caregiver; the head of household may be the man but women are the ones doing the work. Although women do all the work they may not be given the credit they deserve and it is seen that way in all cultures not just Latin culture. Just because men bring in the "big bucks" they aren't the ones who made the food, took care of the kids yet they are the ones who have the upmost respect in societies eyes for being the breadwinner. Women police officers are starting to be seen more and more frequent and even in higher positions such as sergeants or chief. I believe that a majority of the people have respect and an understanding of the jobs police officers do and the roles they play in our everyday lives. However, that being said there is the rest of society who feel a certain way about police officers and even more against women in power. I believe that there is still resistance for women who hold a power role and especially when confronted by someone who upholds the law. The wider society gives power to these women for taking on roles they typically don't. I believe that there is a need for women in power to be able to see a full picture of a more well rounded view. This identification is give by the people because the respect and admiration should and is deserved by the women who put themselves in the line of duty along side a male any given day of the week. I believe that although women are advancing in our world they're more discriminated and doubted more frequent than males. I believe this happens because women are seen as "softer" and more passive and I do not believe that to be true. I myself am trying to pursue a career as a police officer and I would stand along side any female officer equally because a human being is a human being. Gender and sex is not does not dictate whether you are capable of doing a task or job or not.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Katlyn Mirasak



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

7:32pm

Although modern day societies may be a bit more accepting of people who identify as LGBTQ, there are still those who discriminate against the LGBTQ community. Being LGBTQ is a self identification, one simply cannot change what sex they are attracted to. It is something a person is born with. No amount of imposition from outside forces could possibly change that. The majority of society reduces the power of LGBTQ identifiers. Religious sects view homosexuality as a sin and impose those beliefs onto their followers. There have been instances of

discrimination against gays within the workforce such as being fired for being openly gay. Businesses have refused to serve LGBTQ people as well. Despite the huge strides the LGBTQ community have made towards equality, there are still those who actively oppose it. Culture plays a major role in the discrimination of LGBTQ people. The majority of people are raised believing homosexuality is wrong and often times they maintain that mentality throughout their life. There have actually been times where parents disown or stop speaking to their children who identify as LGBTQ because of their beliefs. There are several advocates for those who identify as LGBTQ as well as many different social movements to end the discrimination against the community. Being attracted to the same sex or being born into the wrong sex isn't a disease and it isn't a choice so it shouldn't be treated like such. Every person deserves to be accepted for who they are, not discriminated against for something there is no control of.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Jessica Sidbeck

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

7:34pm

For this topic I decided to pick the role of daycare workers/preschool teachers since I am one. Cultural understandings of this role are typically that a female is going to hold these titles because it involves the care of children. Women in culture, mainly Western culture are predisposed to these jobs because we are mothers and caretakers "naturally" as culture has put upon us. I believe that this identification is imposed on us because of culture and the way women are looked at. You do not typically see a man in a position of a preschool director, teacher, or care provider because it has to do with caring for children and in society that is typically the woman's role. Where I work there are about 50 employees and out of that 50 only 6 or 7 of them are men. Power is reduced to women because society assumes that we are the only ones that can and are willing to do this job. Men get looked down upon in ways if they do this type of work because it is looked at as a woman's job. Men are also discriminated against more in these jobs for the simple fact that if something were to happen they would be the first to be blamed. I have heard stories. Once associated with this identity you can transcend and become something bigger, but it will most likely be another "womanly" job such as teaching at a school level. I have noticed that in our culture and in taking child development classes that it is mostly women with maybe a few men. It doesn't seem to be a big deal as that is what are culture says is what a woman's job is, taking care of children.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Luis Rodriguez

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

8:26pm

A Latino husband working in construction or another manual labor work type of job such as landscaping, plumbing, electricians, etc. play an extremely important role in our society. Latino manual labor workers are mostly men and when this is the case, women are most likely the stay at home moms. Men with these type of job roles are unarguably the ones with the greater power when compared to their wives. This identification is imposed by family members and society.

The high class will discriminate against the Latino male labor worker as they are mostly unskilled positions where a high percentage of the responsibilities will involve physical tasks as opposed to working with computers in an office. Regardless of what the high class thinks, some manual labor jobs pay really well due

to the amount of risk that goes into the environment that workers must work in. While some men enjoy to be in that type of environment some do not but must be done to keep the food on the table for the family.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

10:11pm

Hello Luis,

I enjoyed reading your post and I couldn't help but to think of my husband who works in construction. I am a stay at home mom by choice and not by our culture standards. My son is turning one and I will be returning to work with the support of my husband. My husband was born in Mexico and I am a first generation Mexican/American. I believe this "Latino Husband" role is changing with first and second generations. We are still valuing our culture but we are allowing women to be more independent and to have more freedom outside the home. From my experience my father and mother always taught me that I was an equal to my husband and that I pursue my education.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

8:30pm

The cultural understandings of sex, gender and sexuality in the LGBTQ community and how their roles shape within the society is that it is a bit more open minded and liberal. There is no judgment expressing the gender, sex or sexuality because at the end, this community see's themselves as a unit. LGBTQ is definitely not imposed, no one is forcing anyone to be what they don't want to be. From what I witness on the outside, many may not agree on same sex sexuality because they feel it is a sin or they are being imposed to accept what is not the norm of tradition. The wider society usually reduces power to the LGBTQ community because they feel they are "weak" or not capable. Honestly discrimination is every where no matter what races, sexuality or gender you are. A person or culture will always think they are better than the next and look down upon you. The LGBTQ will always try to transcend their boundaries and shed light on others for equality. There is a movement for the LGBTQ, the community only want equality, acceptance and happiness, but with discrimination, they go through bullying, hate crimes and death, just like any other culture that is viewed as unacceptable.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

8:34pm

Hispanic culture has vastly imploded within the U.S., in fact it is now the largest minority group in the United States, comprising of about 16% of the population. Although in some cases people do refuse to identify themselves with their ethnic group due to various reasons; for the most part, we are imposed with the identification of ethnicity, as we are born into it. Sex, gender, and sexuality roles are without limits in society, in terms of what this culture can achieve. Rather my cultural understandings growing up was always led to believe that some obstacles may present themselves just because of one classification. Unfortunately, there are still some biased opinions present in this

world that like to judge people solely based on their ethnicity. Despite recent struggles associated with not only our cultures but others as well, the shift of power continues to rise in our favor, but isn't quite there yet in my opinion. The Hispanic culture is still in ways discriminated against; whether it be through school, work, or interacting in daily activities. Hispanics education rates are among the lowest. Hispanics are often associated with construction or farming, and not in a positive light. They are often looked at as occupying mainly low paying jobs, not by choice, but rather by ultimatum. However, despite this discrimination, many in this culture have found power through this. They use it as their fuel, striving for success in order to prove the stereotypes wrong. Transcending the boundary of limitation set by discrimination against the Hispanic culture is a constant battle that many within the culture are taking on, either knowingly or not. Resistant movement are spread out throughout this culture, signifying to me unity more so than not. Whether the ideals are relate-able or not, Hispanics grouping together to be heard signifies that the power of this culture is growing. Some of these resistant group are viewed negatively for reasons being that they shed a bad light on an already dim situation, garnering unwanted attention. In some people minds within the culture, there is enough hardship for us already, so to bring about more controversial attention can be damaging not only to those directly involved, but those indirectly as well (all Hispanics).

◀ [Reply](#)

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



Ashley Gutierrez

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

8:35pm



A Hispanic culture has different roles as in society. As of today I personally believe it is both self-identification and identification imposed on people. It may reduce power to other cultures because of all the discrimination and racism going on because of our president. Hispanics are identified as (wet backs), other words undocumented people, such as immigrants. Most of our hispanics work in agricultural. In opportunities perspectives I personally think hispanics are discriminated and are put aside by our appearances. Therefore, I believe that is one of the main reason many of us work in the agricultural fields. As a Chicana growing up with Mexican parents, it's confusing. You are in between two. Our language isn't either fully Mexican and isn't fully American, it is in between. It can be imposed on people because and example can be working for customer service, people might want to speak to a person of their same gender due to their language. Every culture is different and there might be many discriminations and racism situations among all the world and it is not okay.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



Nikki Roxette Palumbon

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

8:37pm



For people who are barely coming out, it's hard for them to do because it's not considered "normal" and they're always scared of being judged and looked down upon as a person. Most Latino families are strict of their children coming out as gay, because of religious views. For example, some paint their nails, put makeup on, dress differently etc. I think this reduces power to the people who are associated with that identity because of their sexual preference.

People who are identified as "homosexual" are discriminated because they believe men should be with women and women should be with men. And they consider being "gay" a sin and that it's wrong. There has been some resistance movement associated with this identity. For example, there were protests against the LGBTQ when they announced the same sex marriage being legal. It's discriminated against because in the bible it says that marriage should be between a man and a female.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27602>

Tiffany Rogers



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27602>

8:38pm

I'd like to discuss the subject of women, because I am one and have some insight on the matter. Being female I think is something more imposed on me growing up more than I can identify with. When I say identify with being female, I mean a "classical" definition of female that would be in terms of activities and likes. Growing up, my surroundings told me a female liked dolls, liked to do makeup, interested in boys, enjoyed certain types of music, shows, and was not capable of some physical activities. My home, the media, school, church, and friends were my "society" which told me through patterns and criticisms what role a female played. Early on, whether I was doing it intentionally or not I still don't know, but growing up I continued to do the opposite of what my society told me I should be doing and what I would be destined for. Sometimes it was climbing trees, skateboarding, playing video games, watching "Gargoyles", watching pro wrestling, watching horror movies, chopping wood for fire during camp, catching lizards, carrying as many grocery bags as possible or learning how to fix cars. I was told on several occasions how "weird" I was for liking these things or excluded from activities because I didn't fit into the "girl time". Likewise, I had to prove myself to the guys, that I was tough enough and cool enough, or knowledgeable enough on the subject or activity to be a part of it. Was going against the current on purpose because, subconsciously, I didn't wanna be "just another girl"? Looking back, I feel that society may have had a big impact on my decision-making that way. Maybe I saw that there was a gender inequality and that maybe my gender was oppressed and I didn't want to be oppressed. In a way, I believed I have transcended the boundaries of my identity because that inequality exists. If that oppression was not there, I may not have pushed myself as hard to learn or try all of these other activities and learn these other things. Likewise, I may have missed out on a lot as well. I did not have a lot of "girl time" growing up. I always had guy friends and related to them more. To this day I am uncomfortable in salons, getting manicures/pedicures, spas, tanning, doing makeup, hair, and many other activities where over 50% of the people doing them are women. I'm not saying these things define a woman, though, I believe they are part of the culture, and a part that I am missing which makes it harder for me to relate or enjoy time with other women in these activities. Because of this I feel secluded. When it comes to men, I also feel secluded, I am the girl, hence, I will be the worst video game player and the worst person to pick on the baseball team. I have to constantly prove myself that I am just as capable and sometimes more. I'm not saying any of these things about gender identities are or should be true, this is just from my personal experience and how society has affected my confused identity. I fit somewhere in the middle. To this day I don't want children either. Although I do have a big family, I feel this may still stem from that frustration and angst against a gender fate I was told by my society that I was destined to. I don't like the thought of having a chosen future based simply on my gender.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Michael Wilcox



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

9:06pm

The Identity I would like to talk about is Mexican American. I spoke with my dear friend Juan about our assignment. He was born in the states and his parents are from Mexico. His dad was a field worker and his mom a traditional house wife and mother. Juan is a middle class blue collar worker. When I asked if there was any examples of him feeling discriminated or devalued due to his identity; he said "I have felt that my whole life." He gave a good example of the following. One day at work he was sitting in a control room with a fellow co-worker who happened to be white. Two people walked in looking for information regarding a plant system. They went straight to his co-worker and asked him first just assuming he had a higher knowledge than Juan. It was not until Juan's co-worker directed them to Juan that they realized shortly after speaking with him, how much education he really had on that system. He said this kind of thing has been happening to him his whole life. Even his own family has told him just to accept it. I then said what made you want to transcend it? He went on to talk about wanting to be better instinctively and also because of something his dad did when he was young. His dad taught the other field workers how to read and write english. It was an example of change and learning that stuck with him, but he felt it was more nature than culture. When I read the following statement. To read all forms of resistance as signs of ineffectiveness of systems of power and resilience and creativity of human spirit in its refusal to be dominated. (Abu-lughad pg37 power reader). In connection with Juan's story it points me in the direction, that it is a natural or biological of the human spirit to be free thinking and evolve. In other words to transcend or break the chain of "what I should be" vs "what can I be." I also feel that if you the identity believe, conform, or act like society (power) tells you to then there is no resistance or change in cultural thinking. Usually resulting ignorance and hate.

◀ Reply

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

Tugo Ayala



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

9:28pm

The identity that I am familiar with in our culture is that of being a soldier. Most soldiers tend to have certain occupations that they hold while in the U.S. Army. There are roles that both men and women can hold, but there are a few roles that only men can hold within the the Army. One of those roles that I can think of is in the field of Infantry. The role of Infantry soldier is the main fighting role within the U.S. Army.

Cultural understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality limit the gender that can enlist into this role to males. At this point in the U.S. Army's history only males may serve in Infantry units. This identification is imposed on males because of our culture's understanding of males roles as the stronger, more aggressive type who are suppose to fight for their country. Woman on the other hand are allowed to serve in supportive roles which can hold more power, but do not require as much risk as that of an infantry soldier who is put into a role where he must risk more and overcome more through his obvious advantage both physically and mentally over that of his female counterpart. There has been attempts by woman and men alike to change this policy of a male exclusive infantry, but it has not won out. The power struggle here for woman who would like to fight side by side with their male counterpart has not been viewed in a positive light as many males feel that woman are not fit for combat roles and they seem to hold a resistance towards having females at their side during these crucial battles in the battlefield. Woman's lack of physical equality to that of men and their emotional instability seem to be the main factor that leads to this decision to exclude females from combat roles that involve direct contact with the enemy. Woman on the other hand have many other ways to support males in combat, but not as bearers of arms on the ground.

◀ Reply

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

Madison Means



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

9:34pm

My identity as a woman has some cultural influences that shape my role in society. One cultural influence that affects me directly is the wage gap between men and women. The cultural understanding of sex has a large impact on this gap for several reasons. It is argued that the wage gap between men and women began a long time ago when more men had higher education and more work experience overall (<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2014/beyond-bls/why-do-women-still-earn-less-than-men.htm>). With this cultural perspective, women have

been lagging in terms of pay and making up for the roles that were originally “assigned” to men and women. This understanding limits women’s role in society because less pay can be representative of less power, it can also make women feel less capable to take on certain positions in the workplace due to feeling lack of worth. The identity of being a woman who is paid less is imposed by our culture. There are opportunities to transcend these boundaries in the workplace when women are able to negotiate pay or businesses recognize this gap and make an effort to take part in equal pay. The wage gap is a form of discrimination against women, the reason for it is debatable. Aside from a history of a gap from different social roles, the culture may view women as inferior, or some people believe women are less competitive and in some cases less successful in careers. There is currently a lot of resistance against the discrimination toward the identity of being a women, which proves that women are trying to take a stand and gain power. Many men are also on their side and the gap continues to shrink.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Dylan Vegas



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

9:42pm

Being gay, there is a lot of conversation about this identity within our society, both good and bad, and it is one that has seen improvement throughout the years in terms of acceptance, yet at the same time actions are made that show that perhaps there hasn’t been enough progress made at all. Within our society, there is definitely a lot more open-mindedness towards being gay, at least when compared to other cultures, so it’s definitely something to be grateful of. Yet in the same breath, we are still facing so much discrimination (alongside the entirety of the LGBT community), especially in the current day due to new changes being made presidentially, executively, federally, what have you.

Overall, less power is given towards individuals within the community, with discrimination and lack of regard running rampant, especially in more conservative areas where there is less of a separation of church and state, as one of many examples. I would definitely say that people are more often than not reduced to this identity; because of this, some choose to remain closeted for their own good in fear of retaliation or being looked down upon solely because of their sexuality. There is definitely a resistance movement against us, one that has held strong for such a countless amount of time. Homophobia certainly isn’t anything new, and one can see that things are taking a major step back in terms of progressiveness in recent times. We have the Westboro Baptist Church as an example of this, protesting with signs saying things like “God Hates Fags” and anything else of the sort, we also have very high suicide rates amongst LGBT individuals, due to discrimination that is just so commonplace for some. As if things couldn’t get even grimmer, the country just recently had the deadliest mass shooting yet, targeted specifically against our community, within our own safe space, something that has instilled such a great fear within these individuals that is simply just tragic.

While there is clearly a large amount of bigotry against the LGBT community from outsiders everywhere, it’s important to note the discrimination that also happens within it. Racism and other forms of prejudice are evident in the community, and many are often quite transphobic and unaccepting towards those who do not conform to the traditional ideas of gender, which is ironic considering everyone in the community faces some sort of oppression from the outside world, and yet people within it are doing the same thing.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Annamie Ambrosio



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

9:48pm

The specific identity that I chose to talk about is being a woman in the U.S. I think cultural understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality shape the roles that people with this identity can play within the society by reinforcing the types of labor they have and their power. For a wife, in terms of sex and gender, cultural understandings reinforce the fact that she is a woman and should act like one. In that sense, women are normally seen as women that have no life in the outside world except in the house where it is their job to take care of domestic work. Even

though it is more common to see women in the workforce now, they are still not valued due to their lack of sufficient income that is still less than men. As stated in the Instructor Guidance, in the reading "The Romance of Resistance," the anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod argues that "resistance and power are dependent on one another," or go hand in hand. With that being said, women who are housewives tend to depend on their husband's income. In addition, they may also depend on them for their decision making when they have problems. By having this resistance movement, it tells me that those who have power are being depended on while those with less power are resisting to be reduced to a less powerful identity. In terms of sexuality, culture reinforces the idea that she may be willing to sleep with other men and needs to be controlled by her wife or boyfriend by limiting her activities and friends. By limiting a woman's activities and social life, she has less power by being controlled.

I think this self-identification on women is both self-imposed and imposed on by others. Women that are stay at home wives identify themselves as being women that only have the job of taking care of the children and the house duties. They identify themselves as a mother and housewife since their roles in society are diminished by not playing a role in society at all except for home. This identity is also imposed on by others because people in society do not value her status since she does not have much to offer. Some people in society see women as being only good for taking care of children, being emotional, and performing house duties; in other words, some may find them incapable of playing a role in society. I think the wider society reduces power to individuals with this identity.

Due to the reduce in power, I think this discriminates against people with this identity. People with this identity are already limited as it is, therefore, they are reduced to this identity. It would be hard for them to transcend boundaries. I'm not saying it isn't impossible, but it would be hard due to the stigma that people have on how women do not have much power which leads to not having the ability to say what they think or want. I think people in the culture view it negatively because they do not see much value or value women that much.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

[Enika Lugo](#)



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

9:54pm

I guess for me the identity I can relate to most is "Latin Women". I can't help but to think of negative and sexist comments when I hear this label. It's a label that generalizes women of Latin decent. It's a label that is imposed and I guess for some a self-identification. Here in the U.S. I would say it reduces power. For example when men say date a "Latin Woman" they say they are short tempered, loud, violent. They also do say some things like they are good cooks, sexy and they can speak Spanish. I don't really see someone transcending from this identity its one that culture labels you as. I know some women do not like to be placed generalized with that identity and they choose to represent themselves with their place of origin. I think it is viewed negatively because women don't want those type of labels. I see posting on social media on how if you date a Latina she will beat you up and how they love Spanish music. I have many friends who do not want to be associated with this identity because they don't want the labels that come with it.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13207>

[Kyann Tama](#)



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/13207>

10:03pm

Sister, student, pet owner, chef, CEO's daughter, Japanese, Chumash, Filipino, and Hispanic. All of these are identities I can be described as and each one causes people to treat me different; but the most prominent one in my life is bisexual. It isn't an identity I tell many people due to the simple fact that is society peoples reactions tend to be extreme. This can be a self-identification or imposed by others. Personally for me I was given this title, I like men and women romantically but felt no need to put a title on myself but others did. My sister who is a lesbian has a very strong opinion, she claims I am straight because I date more men. On the other hand my friend says I'm gay because it is easier to categories. You would think being bisexual would be looked at as a positive because it doubles you dating pool. In society especially in are

culture this identity faces lots of discrimination and has many resistance movements against it. I think this is because it is a minority trait and people tend to fear things that are different. It does have a positive side to in that the LGBTQIA community is very open and supportive of all. The unique characteristic of this identity is that those around me tend to think that it is something ill will grow out of that because I'm not simply lesbian that it makes it a choice. The funny thing about this and anybody who is gay will tell you if it was a choice they wouldn't chose to be something that makes your life harder, puts you in danger, and causes people to hate you when you have done nothing to them.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Mario Serrano



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

10:05pm

My grandmother was a great storyteller. As a young kid, I loved to listen to her talk about how she loved to collect the newly laid eggs from under the chickens that her mamá kept. She'd tell tale after tale about memories from her childhood in Jalisco to her adolescence in Mexico City, all different yet all happy. Then the phase of life known as adulthood presented itself and with it a whole new set of stories. Many happy moments but the ones I remember most are those that made me feel sad. Those stories were about how she, a young Mexican woman, now in the USA, with only an elementary school education, wanted to work to earn income that would help her janitor-husband keep their household financially viable.

My Mexican grandmother (abuela) identified herself as an equal boss of her home (equal to her husband) but outside those walls she was just an immigrant housekeeper who cleaned other people's homes for \$20 a day, and who could barely speak English. This was a lowly self assessment due to what she considered to be her strong Spanish accent. Nonetheless, I think that her identity was not completely self-imposed as the owners of the homes she cleaned, or her "bosses" as she referred to them, identified her as a nice, pretty Mexican lady who knew enough English to understand their instructions regarding how they wanted their windows cleaned, their floors waxed, and their laundry folded, and sometimes even what kind of Mexican dish they wanted cooked for their dinner, and all for just \$20! As Colen described about the West Indies ladies who took care of New York children and households, my abuela often faced "exploitative, indentured-like conditions (Colen, p.99) Furthermore, my abuela's responses to my questions about why she didn't ask for a raise or look for different bosses or find another type of work simply revealed a feeling of "powerlessness" in her "subordinate roles" as well as a certain "dependence" very similar to the West Indies caregivers (Colen, p.108) It seems that immigrant women are still discriminated against by society; when there is no outside accountability, they can be taken advantage of by society at large, financially (low wages, long hours) and socially (moral wrong to treat them as subordinates).

My abuela's lack of education and inability to speak the native tongue, as well as the need to work ever day and care for her family every evening, made it difficult to transcend the boundaries of her role(s) of immigrant woman/housekeeper/wife/mother back in the 1960's. Had she had the time or the finances to cover childcare, she could have gone to English classes at the Community Center which could have improved her chances to move up the division of labor ladder. In her generation, she was not discriminated against in an overt manner, but by her bosses paying her so little and not ever offering her raise in pay, which would have been the morally correct thing to do, she was discriminated against in covert ways. Regarding resistance, there was no societal movement back in her day; but internally, my abuela resisted, as I recall her saying how bad her bosses were to pay her so little for so much (of her) hard work. I understood this to be a good example that "resistance is a diagnostic of power" within a culture (Melidonis, week 3 Instructor Guidance).

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Summer Baldwin



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

10:07pm

An identity I know well would be military dependants this identity is bispised on by others within and outside the military to take place of the identity of being a civilian individual. This identity narrows down the family to act and be a specific way. Civilians tend to look differently at

military dependants, they are less likely to be hired because they move locations commonly, and military feel dependants are a major burden (commonly not always)

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Anthony Mason

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

10:19pm

As a gay young man, I can relate to the way gays are looked upon in our society. The views are ever changing. I was born in 1980 in a rather small town, I grew up in Chico, while considered a city, and it remains a community with small town values.

I knew no one that was gay. I never met a gay youth or friend. I listened to all the remarks made about gays which defined a lot of how I saw young gay men.

Parents: Gays are going to burn in hell.

Preacher: Gays are damned to hell.

Preacher: It's your choice if you're gay, just stop being gay and ask God for forgiveness.

School: Teachers never spoke of homosexuality. It was a taboo subject. When the subject of sexual interactions was discussed, it was always man and woman.

Family: Gays are weak

Family Gays are punks

Neighbors: Being gay is contagious

This is but a small sample of how I heard gays being defined in the culture I was exposed. There was a time, my parents thought something was wrong with me; I was not dating and had no interest in social activities with the opposite sex. They said I was possessed and called the elders of the church to come to our home, anoint me with oil and cast the demons out of me.

The impact these beliefs and behaviors have on a young confused gay man is overwhelming. I considered suicide, did everything I could to change who I was, prayed to God change me. I was convinced God hated me just as the preachers and my parents had said.

Today things have slightly changed. I am in a relationship with a young man who is completely awesome. I am very happy with who I am and while my parents know I am gay, they still hope I will change....I can't.

Today if I could change and become straight, I wouldn't.

Lastly, compared to Chico, California in the 1980s and 1990s; other cultures had completely different views of gays. The Greeks and Romans accepted homosexuality and it was common to find male lovers serving in the military. They were not condemned and are often depicted in art, movies, and plays. We have come a long way, yet we are far from equal.

It is sad one of the fastest growing and most violent gangs (criminal gangs) is made up of young gay white males. [Gay Boy Gangsters].

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Sonia Tapia

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