



This is a graded discussion: 100 points possible

due Mar 29

Week 2 Discussion Post Assignment: Challenging Universals. (3 posts total)

128 132

Discuss an example of the gendered division of space from your own culture or from a culture that you are familiar with. Sample topics could include women cooking in the kitchen and men barbecuing outside, men working and women staying home, men being allowed to go out and women forced to stay home, men taking on public roles and women taking on domestic roles, etc. Does this example conform with or disrupt Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space? Is it related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture? Is this division of space connected to the distribution of power in the culture? Does this gendered division of space result in giving more or less power to one of the genders? How? If there is a power inequality, are there ways that the less powerful gender tries to get power through alternative strategies? Describe them.

Complete your initial post answering the questions of the assignment by Wednesday at 11:59 pm. Complete two additional responses (3 posts total) by Sunday at 11:59 pm. Be sure to utilize the course theories and perspectives to complete your posts. Always tell us why you feel the way that you do.

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Mar 26, 2017

The topic I had chosen for this weeks discussion was that , men that work and woman that stay home . This example conforms with Rosaldo's theory and public and domestic space . Rosaldo felt men tended to take on more public roles , meanwhile women are more associated with nature . This being childcare , emotions , and family . I believe it is somewhat related to Ortner's argument the reason being , fathers are typically looked at as being the cool and fun parent while mothers are not and rather viewed as being the boring or uncool parent even though mothers typically spend more time with the child . The division of space is connected , this being men are mostly looked at as having more or even higher power even when women equally will do the same jobs or responsibility as men weather this is having a job or taking care of their child or children. I see it as it gives more power to men . The reason being is for the same jobs men on average will make more money and by doing the same responsibilities as women , men always get the upper end of things. Yes i think there is a power inequality , people often fail to recognize women actually do exert in many different cultures. By saying men dominated over women for doing similar jobs is very unfair in my option and women deserve more equality

Reply

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Monday

I love your post Trace!
I do agree with your view that women are more associated with childcare, emotions and family and that men get the upper hand in most things.
How will this effect your future?
Women do deserve more equality!!!!!!!!!

Reply

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



Thursday

Good work Treesa and Trace,
Why do you think that men have been associated with the public and women in the domestic in our culture? Do you think, like Rosaldo initially did, that this is just a universal or do you think that there are cultural values that have encouraged this type of thinking? If so, which kind?

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

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Yesterday

Hey Trace ,

I really appreciate your comments of women doing it all working and taking care of the home. At the same time unfortunately we are still looked at less then men. As a women myself I believe with with all aspects theirs a "balance," therefore; men are the providers and women are the caregivers for the most part. At the same time women tend to have that six sense, and know better to try to even be better than the male figure, we understand except it and work our ways around it rather than being that "I'm better than you" attitude as men would tend to do as their nature is being more competitive.

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Monday

The gender division that I am most familiar with is within my family culture. My mom and dad have played these roles that are described by both Rosaldo and Ortner. My dad has always been the sole financial provider for our family, and my mom has always stayed at home with is to ensure we are well taken care of and to raise us to the best of her ability. Both of my parents played a very vital role in the upbringing of my siblings and me, so it is hard for me to understand where the idea of a father role being only to provide financially for his family. Their roles do conform to Rosaldo's argument, but I do feel like my parents are a more modern day version of Rosaldo's ideas.

Each of my examples gives reasons why my family culture conforms to Rosaldo's arguments but also to Ortner. Each anthropologist described women as being pushed towards domestic roles, or private space and men were drawn towards more public roles such as holding public office. My parents have taken on Ortner's argument about being associated with nature and culture. My mom has always been nurturing and has always taken care of our emotional needs, including my dad's, but has never earned a dime for it. My dad has always provided financially. My mom has always been dependent on my dad for money but has never been threatened by her lack of personal money. I do believe this division of space is connected to the distribution of power. Men are more likely to succeed in the business world because we are told from a young age that men are natural born leaders and are meant to be in charge. Women are many times seen as behind the scenes workers. This gives more power to the male gender because they are front runners for power from birth. Society conforms our idea of who is to be in power and who is not. We are told what role we play and how to play it by things as common as TV commercials. Like in the instructor guidance example, many women try to gain power by using their male counterpart as a crutch into power. This may not always mean they are the front lines but they may have a say in something that might normally have a say in. Although my mom has never earned the money she has always had financial power because she has always handled every penny my dad earns. He never knows anything in regards to money but instead has entrusted this all to my mother. This to me shows my dad's willingness to share the power with my mom by relinquishing all of his money to her and never holding it hostage physically or even verbally.

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Monday

Great post Natasha!

How has your parents gender roles effected you and your siblings? Do you find that you will 'follow' in your moms footsteps? Or will you go against your cultures 'rules' and be the financial provider for your family?

◀ [Reply](#)

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Thursday

Hi Natasha,

I enjoyed your post as it hit very close to home with me. My mom does work, but like you said, all the money is handled by my mother. I am very curious as to if your parents let you go out and do what is sometimes culturally held for "guys only." Do they allow you to go out and if so, how is it different from how they would act if you had male siblings?

◀ [Reply](#)

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Yesterday

Hi Natasha,

I really enjoyed your post. It sounds like you have great parents for an example. I think it is awesome that your dad not only trusted your mom with everything, but your mom shared the power and took care of it as well. It sounds like your parent's were a great example of teamwork. My wife and I work towards that everyday. I agree with what you said about society conforming our ideas as well. That being said, do you think our current society is promoting shared power and teamwork? I think its is more about promotion of one's self, then how to work with others.

[Reply](#)

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Monday

An example of gendered division of space in my culture would be my parents. My mom has always been a stay at home mom. The only job she has ever had, other than being a dancer in her early 20s would be a foster parent. My dad, a musician, married my mom and continued to work to support my family. I have noticed over the years that my parents wouldn't survive with out each other. He doesn't know how to do his own laundry and rarely cooks for himself. You can notice that days when my mom is sick, the kitchen seems dirtier than normal. Other than her dancing career, my mom has never had a real job. She has never has tried, or wanted to get a real job. Without the others help they would struggle.

I think this example conforms to Rosaldo's argument. It is related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and mens association with culture. The division of space is may or may not be connected to the distribution of power in culture.

In this example, the gendered division of space does not give any less power to either gender. My mom has the same amount, if not more power than my dad. My mom makes all the rules and decisions in the house, pays all the bills (with the money my dad brings home) and can do whatever she wants. She chose not to work outside the home. Since my mom holds most of the power, my dad tries to get his power through the money he makes.

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Wednesday

I agree with you that it conforms with Rosaldo's argument regarding public and domestic space. It sounds as if your parents have figured out a system of power that works and supports each other in their gender roles. You post made me think about how the role I played as a single mom has influenced my boys in their choices for partners. I played both roles for my boys in other words I did it all, alone. I know can see my influence in how they partner and who they picked to partner with, strong independent, educated women. Since we have evolved as a society and gender roles have been forced to change the universal approach may need to change as well. We are not living in a Ozzie and Harriett society any longer, the white picket fence has been torn down and roles have changed. I think specific roles such as your parents are rare today, Don't you think?

[Reply](#)

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Wednesday

Your parent's relationship is so cute in the sense that they depend on each other for things they wouldn't ordinarily do.

I think that a lot of households run the same way where the woman takes care of everything while the man just works.

[Reply](#)

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Thursday

Treesa, I find your parents relationship common to my parents too. My dad honestly could not survive without my mom being on his side. Either my mom, even though she deny's it. Only difference is that when it comes down to making the final say in the house, my dads say over rules my mothers. It's something we've all accustomed to in my family. But seems like your family also got accustomed to how things go in your household.

[Reply](#)

[Trace Tierstein](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519)
<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/16519>

Yesterday

Tressa , I agree with that statement as mine talks about similar views . I Feel personally no one parent should have higher authority over the other especially if its over who makes more money. It should be equally and parents should be able to make choice together without one doing everything because of a status they think themselves carries.

◀ [Reply](#)

[Gabriela Vasquez](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29038)
<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29038>

Yesterday

I really liked your little story, because even though your dad worked and your mom was a stay at home mom, it sounds like he still treated her like an equal and still treated her with respect as the mother of his children and as his wife. That is really important because most men like to have the control because they make the money and it was just nice to hear that not all men are like, But it also depends how they were raised.

◀ [Reply](#)

[Athena Atkinson](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930)
<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/17930>

Tuesday

I will discuss the American culture as my example. In terms of the gendered division of space, this culture follows the typical "breadwinner" and "housemaker" family. A man is meant to stay in the public sphere while a woman has to stay at home. A man is the parent that goes to work while a woman is the parent that stays at home and takes care of the children. Even though it is seen nowadays that women are joining the workforce, their work is still not valued as much as men. Their work is still not valued because it doesn't contribute to the family's income nor makes them a better person since they still have to take on the second shift of taking care of the family at home. Men are still the primary breadwinners and still do not tend to their children as much as women do. With men being in the public sphere, they are allowed to go wherever they want like going out whereas women have limited activities they can do. Women are responsible for taking domestic roles such as cooking, cleaning the house, and taking care of the children.

I think this example conforms to Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. As stated in the Instructor Guidance, Rosaldo's argument states that "greater distinctions between public and private space would have greater inequality between men and women"; this example conforms to his argument because there is a great difference between the activities done in both spaces. There is also the fact that men's activities are valued more, specifically their work, which contributes more to the inequality between the two. In addition, I also think that this relates to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. Since women are more connected to their emotions and show affection towards their family and take part more in child rearing, they are associated with nature more than men. On the other hand, men are linked to culture by their public sphere of relating to the outside world through their networks of friends and coworkers and they are considered more "rational" than women since they rely on logic more than their feelings.

I believe that this division of space is connected to the distribution of power in the culture. It shows a clear division of who has the power and who doesn't. It shows that men have more power than women given the fact that men have the ability to do whatever they want since they are more involved with the public and bring home the income. Whereas for women, they have less power by being controlled since they do not bring in a contribution to the family's income and do not have any involvement in the outside world which means she has no connections except with her family.

There are some ways that the less powerful gender tries to get power through alternative strategies. In this example, women may not complete or do any of the domestic tasks they normally do. This can force the men to take over and do their jobs that they do not normally do which makes the women have the power in that specific situation. This also gives them power by making men do their tasks which are not valued by them which may change their minds about it once they actually do their tasks for once. They can also have power by explaining to men that they should have a say in their important decisions because she makes a big contribution to the family by taking care of all the tasks needed to be done in the house, especially taking care of the children which is an important task that impacts how the children grow up.

◀ [Reply](#)

[Christine Hernandez](https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735)
<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/7735>

Tuesday

I grew up in a household where both my parents had equal responsibilities like cooking, working, and taking care of my siblings and me. I had to really think about what I wanted to write about and then my grandparents came to mind. My grandparents live in Mexico and the times I have visited I have seen that my grandmother is the one that cooks, cleans, and goes into town for things she may need around the house for the day or week. My grandfather just takes care of the farm animals making sure they are well fed. I had seen that if my grandfather was sick my grandmother would take over and take care of the farm animals. But if my grandmother was sick you did not see my grandfather step in the kitchen to cook or even clean. I do see Rosaldo's argument because my grandmother does spend a lot of time at home while my grandfather is talking to other men that happen to be taking care of their farm animals or are trying to buy off animals from him. But I am not so sure this ties in with Ortner's argument about the woman being more tied in with nature and men to culture. I do see that my grandfather has just a bit more

power but does not make my grandmother feel any less. But this will not always happen I feel like sometimes there will be relationships where the man will take all the power or the woman will and sometimes culture will not matter.

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Thursday

Esmeralda, your last sentence grabbed my attention. I agree with you on that sometimes culture wont matter, if a man takes all the power or the woman. Now and days you see more women being more in power than me, and that's something pretty amazing. I guess in most Mexican house holds that's how it is. The woman always doing everything, cooking, cleaning, and making sure everything is done. While the man just handles the more farm work, or other work to provide for his family. My grandparents relationship was like another others. My grandmother she worked in the farms, but once she had my mother she quit her job to be a stay at home mother, and my grandfather started working 2 jobs to support his family. My grandfather did put down my grandmother a lot and over powered her a lot, but my grandma even though she stayed home a lot she did have a little side job, and that was catering. She loves too cook, and she took on doing that side job to bring some extra cash in for her family. Now, my grandma is the one that takes care of my grandpa, now she works to provide for them. Now my grandfather he's the type, and has always been the type to never ask for help, because he's always been use to doing everything on his own because thats what men do. Even though he can't admit it, I know he's thankful for everything my grandmother is now doing for him. Even after how he treated her.

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Tuesday

The gender division of space amongst my Mexican Heritage is very similar to those Professor Melidonis mentioned. The one that seemed more relevant is the fact that in Mexican Culture, women are expected to know how to cook, clean, take care of the children, etc. If a woman is not able to do these things, they are judge and/or frowned upon. It's one of the old customs in the heritage that has really prevailed throughout the years. Despite women becoming more empowered within society, it is still a very important and keen thing seen amongst Mexican Culture. Speaking from personal background, its not something that you really think about or questioned until its brought to your attention (I don't personally share these same values by my heritage).

Another thing that this weeks post really brought to my attention is the way a mother is seen amongst my culture. In Mexican heritage, a mother is seen as, "La Reina De La Casa," –The queen of the house. It's a role that although being misleading, is very prominent in my home as well as many others. These questions made me think about how when someone offends one's father, it doesn't really affect him, but when someone insults or offends a person's mother, all hell breaks loose. Think about it, have you ever been unbothered by a comment made about a father figure and yet been infuriated by a comment made about your mother? It seems as if though in my culture, as well as many others, a woman, is highly regarded as a powerful figure. It relates to how in Chinese culture (as stated in the Intro) the mother's will is enforced through the son. In Mexican Culture, the children in general try to defend their mother figure at all costs. These are the ways that my culture personally taught me, a woman, is someone to be treated with respect. This example seems to help Rosaldo's argument. This example does also relate to Ortner's association with nature, mostly based off how people try to defend the prominent female figures in their life. This gendered division distributes power to both males and females as the father does in fact provide, but the mother has the ultimate say in how it is used. Such example in Mexican Culture would be a father bringing money to the home, but the mother having the ultimate say in how it's used.

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Thursday

Hello Daniel. I enjoyed reading your posts regarding the Mexican culture which views women as close to nature and belonging in the domestic realm. What is very interesting about the example you present where a mother is called "La Reina De Las Casa," or the queen of the house, is that contrary to the idea that limiting women to a domestic realm is subordinating in this view point a woman potentially has greater power that extends even beyond the home. This reminds me of Roger's ethnographic study of the women in GF, where the women have greater influence than men even though both the men and women perpetuate the myth that men are in charge. If a mother in Mexican culture is someone who garners respect by her children and anyone who speaks her name, than perhaps she is not as subordinated to her husband as her assignment to the domestic realm would imply. Bringing in an income as a breadwinner is not the position of power, it's the person who decides how that money is spent that has more control. In example in Roger's account of G.F. when Mme. Francois decided she wanted a motorbike to help with wrangling the cows from the pasture, even though her husband said they couldn't afford it yet, two weeks later she got it. In explaining this Mme. Francoise could have said, " I control the budget and I wanted it, so too bad for him, I went out and bought it." (Rodgers.pg.21) However she simply left that her husband had changed his mind. This seems like a very good illustration of both the women of GF and the women in Mexican culture having more power than meets the eye. Thanks for an interesting read!

Source Citation List

Week 2 Instructor Guidance

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

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Friday

Daniel,

I could not agree more with what you said in the first paragraph because I remember growing up my parents told me that I needed to learn to clean and cook and I always questioned them to why was it so important I learned to do those things and their answers were always "well if you ever get married and have kids" but that was not the answer I was looking for I wanted them to just for once tell me instead that I should learn these things for when I live alone and they are not around. I was known as the rebel in my family because I always questioned what they told me and hated when the answer was "so one day when you get married".

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12:38am

Great post, Daniel.

I personally believe that now in the modern day the older women of the family such as aunts, grandmother, and mother are seen to be La Reina De La Casa. I don't really think women back in the day were valued as much as they are today. As you mentioned, men bring home the money and the women decide on the final say about it. For the most part I agree, then again I believe that nowadays men and women work to support their families so they both as a team decide the final say together.

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Tuesday

I believe that in our culture today women in the military shows how even in the 21st century women are still seen as unequal in their ability against men. For example for the last one hundred years since the last two years of World War 1, 1917-1918, women were allowed to join the military. However that being said women were given duties that including caring for wounded (nurses) or support staff to the military (domestic duties) and not combat front line duties. It has only been for that last few years, that woman are now able to serve in combat if qualified (2013). For me, that goes to show that the gendered division of space in our own culture is seen in many aspects of our everyday life. I believe that this example does conform to the theories of Rosaldo's because there is a gap between what men and women can do according to the military. I also believe that Ortner's Theory goes hand in hand because why are women given the domesticated job duties? Is it because of their natural roles of ideas of being the caregiver, cook and other duties? The distribution of power is unequal in my eyes because men are seen as superior and more able, although women can/could do the same job or function. I believe that Rosaldo's outlook on how the gender gap between men and women is based off the culture we live in. In our society men are seen as the authority and women as passive. In a relationship or marriage men are supposed to be the "bread winner" according to our society and that automatically puts the women as passive. Therefore men usually tend to have more influence on the monetary side of things. However that being said women also are the "Boss" of the home. I believe that men in the public eye are seen as the authority and in the home women are the shot callers. Women tend to know everything that is going on in their home and in that aspect the power of the home and what goes on in the home I believe lies to the women.

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11:13am

I like how you brought up equality in the military, I see it all the time working on base. I would go a step farther and talk about the dependants as well. Male dependants are often made fun of because just like everyone else they struggle to find jobs because of the constant relocation and tend to stay home and take care of the family. When they do take on a care giver role they are made fun of and told they are less of a man. While female dependants are made fun of for just being a woman. They get nicknames like "dependapotomus" and told they "suck the life" out of their spouse. many enlisted will even joke about how women will trap a military member with a baby so they can "collect that BAH". The military in general can be treated far better than most. For example an enlisted guy posted a picture of me online calling me a whore and when I reported the picture they "punished" him by taking away his preferred orders but wouldn't release his name to me so I could take legal action of my own. later telling me "maybe you should dress less provocatively so men don't feel the need to treat me badly" as if I cast some magical spell on a man to make him weak to social faux pas.

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Wednesday

Mary Moore; Week 2 Discussion Post: Challenging Universals

While times are changing gradually with the influx of women working outside of their domestic realm there is still plenty evidence in our culture of the relegation of the roles of women. In the piece by Louise Lamphere she quotes Michelle Rosaldo, " ...everywhere men have some authority over women, that (is) they have culturally legitimated right to her subordination and compliance." (Women, Culture, and Compliance" 1974 .21) I think the quote by Margaret Mead pretty much sum up reality even today. " In every known society, the males need for achievement can be recognized. Men may cook, or weave, or dress dolls or hunt hummingbird, but if such activities are appropriate occupations of men, then the whole society, men and women alike votes them as important. When the same occupations are performed by women, they are regarded as less important." (Mead 1949) Although a woman has been educated and can have employment outside of the home her relevance is simply within the walls of her home. Her domain is to work outside the home and maintain the typical roles of cooking and cleaning and caring for the family needs.

Even though Rosaldo argued for universal subordination she was careful to make the point that women are not powerless, and minimize male authority and make appear trivial. (Louise Lamphere, "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men") There is much to be said regarding the truth of the old saying, if mama isn't happy nobody is going to be happy. I reality, I believe women are often shut out of the public world as they are sequestered behind a pile of dirty laundry. For me, I was not content in my domestic world of dishes and dinners at 5:30 so I ventured outside of the doors to my castle into a career. My children have grown to be educated responsible people that are productive citizens. They do not seem deprived because I was out of the home. Lucky me, I got to do my regular chores too.

It rankles me when women are not valued and their achievements and opinions are minimized. The other day I was visiting with a friend in the lunch room where she was volunteering. She explained to the supervisor that she had used several dollar bills trying to use the vending machine which wouldn't accept any bill. He listened, took another bill out of his pocket, as if his money had special power he tried to insert it into the beleaguered machine. Can you believe it? it didn't work either, he put a sign on the machine. It was marked out of order. A small trivial occurrence the let us know that while society is changing, there is still a long way to go.

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Thursday

Wonderful work Mary,

Well done! You really do an excellent job of applying the course theories here! I loved your example with the vending machine. The beauty here is that I doubt the man would have any notion of how what he did was disempowering or annoying. While early theorists argued that male domination was universal, contemporary anthropologists disagree. That being said, there is no doubt that most "Western" cultures are male dominated.

It is interesting to note that male dominance has also been spread by Western cultures as part of colonialism. Some theorists suggest that it is the emphasis on bonds between men reinforced by the colonials that worked to marginalize women in many cultures that had traditionally enjoyed more equality. Excellent work!

Arion

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Wednesday

Challenging Universals

From back in the olden days to now, many roles of men and women have changed, and others have stayed the same. It's clear to see and read that back then, women's roles were stricter (domestic/natural), that was stay home, cook, clean, and watch over the children. As to with men, their roles were more (public/cultural) to work, and provide for his family. Now, you will still see that women have changed up the game and started to take on more public roles, but no so much cultural. In my family, and in many Mexican households, men take on the (public/culture) roles. My mother, she also did work to provide for my family, but my mother once she got out of work she went straight to the kitchen to make dinner every night for my siblings, father, and I. Weekends consisted of us (my sisters, mom, and I) of making breakfast for everyone, cleaning the house, doing the usual washing clothes, folding clothes, cleaning the restrooms, etc. As to my father and brothers, they spent (still do) most of their time down doing ranch work, or watch soccer games. I didn't like it much of my brothers not helping out more inside the house, but they were helping my dad which counts as something.

After reading Rosaldo's and Ortner's arguments, I found their arguments to be very similar. I sat both their responses are related to the role in which is shown in my family of the men and women. My father, and still to this day will have the final say in my family decisions. My mother's opinion is also as important of my fathers, but at the end its my dad's decision which we all go upon.

In my opinion, of course I would like to say we all should be treated as one. At the end we are all human, we all work hard to get what we want and to give our kids a better future. Not a lot of people are going to agree with women taking on a man's job, because those people have seen growing up that it's just what men do not women. Some other people are going to say, well hey if she wants to go for it and take on the man role then let her do it. I do find it to be true that men are more reliable in taking on more of a high in charge position than women, because it's true, once a woman has a child her life changes. Like in our previous assignment, it said children tend to be closer to the mother than their fathers, they find more comfort to the mother, because she's the one is who is mostly there with the children, while the man is working.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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Wednesday

In choosing a gendered division of space/roles, I have selected one that has been a large part of my life growing up and is now a part of my daughter's: Girl Scouting. As the name would indicate Girl Scouts is an organization that is operated by women for girls all over America. To look at a few facets of this gendered division, there is of course its counterpart and predecessor: Boy Scouting, founded by Lord Baden Powell, an organization that was started as exclusively for boys. Girl Scouts was founder Juliette Gordon Low's answer to bringing a comparable organization for Girls to the USA. So at a glance we have separate but on the surface comparable organizations with the genders clearly divided into these organizations. I believe this distribution of space empowers both boys and girls. Similar to the example of the how the men and women both have power through the unspoken perpetuation of the myth of male power in the separate life of GF, by having this separation they also, "avoid any overt challenge to the whole system of rewards and perceived advantages." (Rodgers, pg. 26). The reason that girls have more power having their own scouting organization is because they are not in direct competition with the boys on skills that culturally are labeled as more masculine, and the boys have more power in their own organization to culturally observe what is expected of them by society.

In present day Girl Scouting offers some programs to girls that were once that are still regarded as masculine activities. Girl Scouts has recently shifted its focus to STEM activities and education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as an answer to the disproportionate amount of women working in these growing fields that are widely male dominated. So this is another example of Girl Scouting giving more power to the girls to explore opportunities with the male competition removed. In scouting the programs are designed to be girl led. Girls are also taught outdoor, camping and survival skills. The role of males in Girl Scouting is extremely limited. When camping with the girls the men must be separate tents or often completely separate male camping areas (driven by cultural fears of the perceived threat of inappropriate male conduct). There are really only two activities per year in which male participation is required: the father or "special male friend" dance in which Girl Scouts attend the event with dads, uncles, grandfather's, step dads etc. (women are not permitted to substitute – even in the case of single mothers); and Brownie Olympics which is a day of Olympic sports style competitions for the girls. It is interesting to note how gendered these activities that involve men are. Observably in Girl Scouts men are regarded as useful for leading girls as their dance partners and to run the only competitive sports event in scouting, but also treated as threatening so kept separate for overnight events.

There are some activities that dads might choose to participate in such as the Powder Puff derby, Girl Scouts' answer to the Boy Scout's pine wood derby. Which leads me to my next point in that Girl Scouts is sometimes viewed as "Boy Scouts for Girls" or "Boy Scouts Lite", the gentler more feminine version of scouting. In the USA where women are regarded as more delicate, more feminine, and closer to nature; girls don't learn knife skills like their male counterparts routinely do in their scouting program, few camping trips really involve roughing it and wilderness survival, and while girls are taught some survival skills they only demonstrate them in the secure setting of Kaleidoscope (The Girl Scout version of Camporee). I recall the boldest thing we ever really learned was fire building, and even so we did it with matches and not a flintstone like the Boy Scouts would. Our Powder Puff derby cars came pre-cut unlike the pinewood derby cars that Boy Scouts must carve themselves. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts while separated into seemingly equal organizations both present with clearly gendered activities for their respective members that are aimed at fitting the perceived strengths and differences of both genders (in a binary gender system).

You seldom hear of cisgender boys wanting to join Girl Scouts, the organization is clearly for girls. However Girl Scouts does welcome LGBT members, and I can vividly recall a prominent camp counselor undergoing a female to male transition. They remained an active member of Girl Scouts long after. Boy Scouting on the other hand, with its strong focus on male comradery and masculinity, has only just announced this January that it will begin accepting transgender members (<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/30/us/boy-scouts-transgender-membership/index.html> https://url.serverdata.net/?a5NlloNu6x4W82Y6AmlWmc6TskPIS5ISW5O16qkMpozFDx7WYwDlxFTJKrSRqXGNz7sy1hCeC65qkkCuH938HH0e5nESaqiUOaHtuzkzsYwzuSWs8KmqoeWmPrfDOREXDazMkQ6BqY10Oaz75EquITkBem-WJ96UqNFRkKut6MiAqvl2_LNEqH3KRLq2z68daZP0hQwTkkCbJ8uWIQ-->) and had previously also had a ban on gay members.

By Ortner's argument Girl Scouts are still subordinated to Boy Scouts, in the limitations of their opportunities to explore activities such as knife skills and the implementation of gentler camping and outdoor activities. As Ortner put it "woman's body and its functions place her in social roles that in turn are considered to be at a lower order of the cultural process than man's." (Ortner, pg.9) To further illustrate how the girls are viewed as closer to nature and given less important tasks, it's worth comparing the expectations of community service projects in both organizations. The most prestigious award that can be earned in Boy Scouts is the Golden Eagle, comparably Girl Scouts can earn their Gold Award. As a Gold Award recipient, my project through which I earned this award was organizing and running eating disorder awareness and body images seminars, and collecting blankets and journals for a local treatment facility (self-funded through recycling). My project like many other Girl Scouts was close nature dealing with a mental health concern in our community. Girl Scout Gold Award activities are generally people centric, compassionate, nurturing and charitable and most often personally significant to the girl who is earning her reward and relevant to women's issues. The Eagle Award is most often a manual labor construction project in the community of some kind that is regarded as extremely important and honorable, for example an Eagle Award recipient helped to build wooden structures at the Conejo Botanical Gardens. With these highly gendered differences between scouting one could argue that the separation, giving girls their own organization, allows them to have power they might not have in a male dominated organization. One could also argue that Girl Scouts restrict girls from activities still that are seen as too masculine, public or important and prefers their activities to be modified to be easier (or viewed as easier), closer to nature and nurturing.

Source Citation List

Week 2 Instructor Guidance

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◀ [Reply](#)

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

Benjamin Reyes

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

Wednesday

I think I grew up in a Western cultured household. Especially when it comes to the duties of the father and mother. My mother was always the one to cook dinner clean the house etc. I have yet to see my dad walk through the door with groceries, but my mom has always taught me and my brother how to do a "women's duty" yet my father never did them. I remember washing dishes as a kid and my great great grandfather yelling at me to go outside because a man should never wash the dishes but I always continued to help my mom when she asked. Power in the gender is determined in the culture we grew up in. For example if a man ran a business and was always on people to make sure the work was done he would be considered a great boss but if a woman did the same exact thing and showed the same traits they would consider her a bossy bitch (excuse my language) in western cultures. I do believe that the division of space results in the division of power in a public matter, not domestic matter because if you think about it if women were to stop everything they did in a domestic space where would that leave the men? That's also why I believe that the ones with less power really do have alternative strategies to gaining power.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Friday

Benjamin, I grew up with two younger brothers and my parents always taught them to clean and cook for themselves. But it when I met my husband he found that my brother's cooking and cleaning was weird because in his household the men just got home from work to eat and left the dirty plates on the table to be cleaned up by the woman. His dad would yell at him if he even washed a dish. My mother-in-law not to long ago got knee surgery so she was recovering for a while and my father-in-law did not know how to wash dishes or even sweep, for a couple of weeks he would just get fast food and eat off of paper plates. So my point is that it is super important to also teach boys how to do these things it should not just be a women's job.

[Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

I completely agree with you Esmeralda. Back in the days men thought that women should have to do everything. They thought their work was hard and that was enough but women had it though too. Boys also have to learn how to be responsible because they might end up marrying someone that doesn't know how to cook and clean because in this day and age women are becoming more dependent on themselves and they wouldn't care if they know how to cook and clean. Because my grandparents tried to have me do things because I was a girl, I rebelled against them. I ignored my grandparents when they told me that I needed to learn how to cook and clean, because how am I going to get a man if I didn't know how to do those things, I replied back by saying that I was going to be with someone that knew how to do his own stuff because I wasn't going to pick up after him like a maid. Luckily I married someone that knew how to cook and cleaned up after himself because I cannot cook at all so thank God he does. He cooks and I was the dishes, we are both equals no one is the alpha.

[Reply](#)

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

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

Friday

Mary Moore: Response to Benjamin Reyes Week 2

Hi Benjamin, I read your post with interest. The domestic scene in your home sounds very much what was considered typical in homes described in the readings this week. I wondered about your mother teaching you and your brother to do "women's duty" in the home. Was her motivation to put a few chinks in the male dominance armor in your household or was she just tired of doing all the household work without help? I believe your mother is remarkable no matter what her motivation was because at the very least you have an idea of what the domestic role is all about. My question to you as your life evolves and you become a father in your own household what will your role be? Will you follow tradition in your family and be focused on your gender specific public role? Personally, I hope for a more balanced reality where typical gender roles are more equal in the domestic as well as the public realm. Education, such as this class, I believe will at least expand thinking about cultural realities.

Thanks, Benjamin for your post.

[Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

Benjamin, I too had similar recalls as growing up throughout my childhood and even up to this day i would always help out because that is just the type of person i am. So i ask myself why cant i help in the kitchen or with dishes or help make any food? If i cant whats the problem and why? Yes women truly deserve more power expecially when they do the same duties as men yet do not quite get the same amount of credit.

[Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

A generated division that I have noticed within my own culture is a women taking a hire role in the kitchen and house hold chores. For example, I have seen my mother cook, and prepare the table for the entire family to be ready to eat when everything is cooked. My mom will be doing the cooking, and my dad sits watching tv and waits for the food to be ready. Once everyone has ate my mom will be the one cleaning and washing the dishes and cleaning up after everyone and adjusting everything for the next day. Like Ortner's argument it is related because she stated: what could there be in generalized structure and conditions of existence, common to every culture, that would lead every culture to place a lower value upon women? A women is identified with, or if you will, seems to be a symbol of something that every culture devalues something that every culture defines as being if a lower order of existence than itself. It's all nature! It is connected to the distribution of power in culture because if women were considered part of nature then culture would find it natural to subordinated, not to say oppress, them like Ortner stated. It does result in giving more or less power to one of genders because culture sometimes recognize that women are participants in pencils processes but at the sam time being rooted in. Women tend to be the

ones that have to achieve most part of the house hold duties, grocery shopping, buying clothes of enchildren etc. They play a big role in humanity. It has division of genders because roles are played and acted differently between men and women. There is a way that the less powerful gender can get power through alternative strategies. For example, women greater bodily involvement with functions surrounding the reproduction, that makes the women be seen as a more part of nature than a man is. They're able to carry a child when as a man can't. That's a power a man no matter what power he has can have.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Yesterday

Hi Sonia,

I liked your post. I too agree that women definitely have a natural power that men can not have. Also if more U.S. men realized that the world might be a better place. If we put aside child birth for a moment, and say our culture/society in current times is saying to women "you can do anything a man can do." Raise children, jobs, and etc. Or in others words empowering women to be their best. Why, do we not empower men or every sex for that matter to be their best? Lastly what, if anything can men do that women can not?

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

11:19am

I think the big focus on female empowerment is there because before people openly spoke about non-binary genders women had the least power, rights, and options available and still do. Women were even the last to get the right to vote in the U.S just like anything in life you can't spread yourself too thin. So focusing on women's rights before other's isn't completely wrong. If I tried to fight for the rights of every single human being on the planet at once my resources would be exhausted before I made a difference in anyone's life.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Wednesday

In American culture, the gendered division of space is prominent and can be found in various aspects of everyday life. A significant example can be found in gym activity: men congregate in the weight room and women dominate the cardiovascular exercise equipment/aerobics classes. Although it may not appear to at first glance, this example of gendered division follows Michelle Rosaldo's argument of public and domestic space. Rosaldo argues that "in their drive to acquire status, men tend... to take on public roles in most cultures. Females, in contrast, tend... to be tied to domestic roles such as cooking or taking care of children" (Melidonis). Within American culture, muscularity is considered to be directly proportional to a man's 'power' and discipline, regardless of a man's career; a man whose job is physically strenuous and a man whose job is sedentary are both considered powerful if they are muscular. Weight training in the designated free-weight portion of a gym is closely linked to this cultural belief. The techniques required by this area of exercise are considered more '**refined**' and correlate with a man's ability to approach unique issues within his career, politics, etc. with sound reasoning (furthermore adhering to Sherry Ortner's argument that men are associated with **culture**). Muscle definition allows a man to command prestige and respect from the **public** sphere. In contrast, American culture emphasizes the importance of a woman being able to care for her children, husband, and maintain the beauty standards associated with female success, i.e. thinness. Cardiovascular and aerobic exercise is considered a '**generalized**' workout that correlates to this ideal. A mother who is thin and 'takes pride in her appearance' is viewed as being more successful than a mother who is overweight. American society considers a woman's appearance to be directly proportional to her ability to be a good mother and wife in the **domestic** sphere (furthermore adhering to Ortner's argument that women are associated with **nature**). Men and woman remain within these gym spaces for the "fear of edging outside one's perceived gender. If a...woman lifts, she may be concerned that she will develop masculine physique [which would ostracize her from the domestic sphere]. Likewise, some men will presume that [significant] cardio will whittle them away into thinness [which would cause them to lose power within the public sphere]" (Chan).

The aforementioned division of space is directly linked to the distribution of power in American culture. Men are consistently in the 'power' position, both literally and figuratively. The fact that gym weightlifting areas are male dominated emphasizes the importance of man's perceived physical and mental superiority within work positions. Men are considered more capable of holding powerful and influential positions within the public sphere, i.e. CEO, President of the United States, other political positions, surgeon, etc. Women are often met with significant hostility if they try to adopt one of these positions, similar to the hostility they experience if they venture into, or, heaven forbid, workout in the weight room. This gendered division of space leaves women with less power than men. "The confinement of women to the domestic sphere [cardio and aerobics] and men's ability to create and dominate the political sphere thus... [accounts] for men's ability to hold the greater share of power and authority" (Lamphere). Men are encouraged to utilize *all* aspects of the gym (even cardio equipment), while women are discouraged from venturing outside of their 'zones.' Man's dominance within all gym areas has encouraged gym equipment manufacturers to calibrate EVERY piece of cardio and weight lifting machinery to the average male's physique. Women have begun to remedy this inequality by finding alternative strategies to acquire power. This includes: the creation of gyms with a solely female clientele, instantly eliminating any testosterone induced hostility in the weight area; women demanding that free weight routines be incorporated into their aerobics classes; female body building and bikini competitions becoming more popular and accepted; and women hiring personal trainers that serve as instructors/guides to smooth the female transition into the male dominated public sphere of the free-weight area.

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◀ [Reply](#)

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

Thursday

Hello Jillien- I greatly enjoyed reading your analysis of the gym as space with gendered division, its brilliant example really. As an avid exerciser and a woman this example hits close to home for me. I agree on all of the points you have presented. My own gym has a very literal division of space with its own "women only" section with machines that are more female friendly, usually on lower weight setting, its own set of free weights (not as heavy as the normal free weights section at the gym) and yes, you guessed it, cardio equipment. This area gives women a perceived quiet safe space away from the men. Going a step further, the owner of the gyms I have attended is male, the majority of the staff are male, the personal trainers are primarily male, and the classes taught by female instructors are attended almost entirely by females. It's as though there is an unspoken shame for any man to attend a class run by a woman, because it wouldn't be viewed as masculine. When I see men at the gym, they are primarily lifting free weights or doing high intensity interval training, while the women tend to flock to the pilates reformers and cardio machines, and female instructor led classes striving for long lean muscle and thinness.

It's also worth exploring why women in America go to the gym. Having spent great time at the gym and engaged in many conversations with fellow gym going women about what brings them to the gym I have inadvertently conducted my own ethnographic research. I tend to hear women cite the same reasons: to lose weight, to recovery from pregnancy, to prepare for pregnancy, to de-stress and get a break from "momming". Ortner's argument that women's physiology is in part why she is viewed as closer to nature and therefore subordinated to man, and as Ortner explains, "woman's consciousness- her membership, as it were, in culture- is evidenced in part by the very fact that she accepts her own devaluation and takes culture's point of view." (Ortner, pg.9) These reasons women give for going to the gym are prime examples of woman's acceptance of cultural constraints that dictate she should be in optimal physical condition to be more attractive, fertile, and that the little time she gets away from her children should be spent improving upon her appearance after having children. A woman who "lets herself go" after pregnancy is viewed as lazy. In contrast, because I ventured out of my comfort zone on the elliptical to train for a Spartan race, I got to interact with the men and their free weights, and took advantage of the chance to learn new things as my focus was to build strength and resistance rather than to look thinner. I got to hear their goals. Some were military, or preparing to enlist, some were athletes, some had high stress corporate jobs and were blowing off steam, and a handful were trying to simply lose weight. Overall the reasons were correlated with public life, and the pressure to be strong and exude confidence. However as Lamphere clarifies, "Despite the powerful imagery-women associated with the private or domestic domain and men with public space the description also shows that the dichotomy is not neat." (Lamphere, pg. 82) There are outliers in this equation in our own culture that are for the most part accepted especially in more liberal regions like the one we reside in and around Los Angeles. Another group of gym goers that I have interacted with are those who are gay. The gay men that I have spent time with spend a great deal of time on the cardio equipment trying to achieve thinness, citing the reason of vanity and to be more attractive to either meet potential dates or to keep their partners happy. And yet gay men are not viewed as closer to nature, they are however viewed as closer to women and often stereotyped as "woman's best friend". There is quite a lot to explore as far as gendered behavior and treatment in the gym- I believe one of our classmates is focusing on female body building for their paper as well which should be fascinating.

[Source Citation List](#)

Week 2 Instructor Guidance

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

Lamphere, Louise. "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy." *The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Mar. 2017. <http://academic.csuohio.edu/hoffman_b/GENDER%20COURSE%20FILES/9%20Domestic%20Public%20Dichotomy%20Lamphere_files/v3_document.htm>.

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Friday

You had a great example with the idea of the gym and weights being associated with men and cardiovascular towards women. I couldn't have said it any better myself, as a gym-goer I see this every single day when I get to the gym. I see that women who have little experience in the gym and see women doing heavy weights they think of bodybuilders. As you can think bodybuilding is associated with men, it is a man's sport according to most. Bodybuilding is a sport to build and create a physique that is the best form of the body you can produce. Why does that have to be associated with men, when women's body is equally if not more great than the males body. There is a huge gap in gendered division of space and it's quite sad.

[Reply](#)

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Wednesday

Coming from a Hispanic household there can be many examples of gendered division of space within the family. Both of my parents are Mexican and mostly all of my extended family is also Mexican if not Mexican-American. When taking a step back, I realize how our culture really shapes us to have these types of gendered division spaces within our homes. For example, in my culture it is seen as appropriate for the women in the house to do all of the cooking while for the males it is okay to barbecue outside. While the males within my culture are still seen as the so called "breadwinners" you would see the men taking on a job while the females take their roles as housewives. However, times have changed, and although within my family and most of my extended family both the men and women tend to hold a job in the house to be able to support the family, if a time arose that required one person to work while the other stayed at home it would be most appropriate for the man to work while the female stayed at home to take care of the children. This can be due to the ideology from the culture that if a man cannot support his family he is not a "real man" or is lazy. Another gendered division of space within my culture that is typically seen is that the women are the ones that do the household chores such as sweeping, mopping, doing the dishes, laundry, etc. While on the other hand, the men work on stuff outside of the house or to the house that needs to be done such as fixing components of the house, fixing the car, other side construction jobs, etc.

While reading the article of "Instructor Guidance: Challenging Universals" I found that my examples of gendered division of space by my culture do conform to Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. Rosaldo argues that males take on public roles while they try and achieve a type of domination and status while women are left to take on domestic roles. In regards to my culture I do have to say that males tend to be the most dominant within the household. My examples also depict how they are more public by taking jobs outside of the house while women tend to have more work inside of the house. I believe that these examples are also related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. I also agree that she has a point with her stance that gender inequality is more likely to happen where the nature or culture distinction is in place. I believe acquiring power comes from having a more public role within a family rather than having a more domestic one. Since in my culture you typically see males having that role they are the ones with more power and opinion over the females. Like I mentioned, times are changing, and even in my culture females, have started to take on more public roles than what traditional ways used to be like. Most females in my family and extended family hold jobs and the males tend to be more involved with taking care of their children. I believe with even more positive change like this, power can be distributed evenly between males and females of all cultures.

[Reply](#)

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Wednesday

I thought this was a really good discussion of how gender differences play out in Mexican households. I also thought you did a great job applying this week's theories about gendered division of space to your family. One thing I might add is that the males in your family are challenging Townsend's paradox because they're not just saying they want to be involved dads, they are actually BEING involved dads; in other words, they are walking the talk. I agree that it's dads like the dudes in your family who will help create a more gender-equal society, where as you said, power will be more evenly distributed between genders.

[Reply](#)

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

Thursday

Hi Juliana,

I never even thought of the cultural "machismo" when a male cannot support his family! I realized I enjoyed your post specifically because you mentioned the fact that a man is not seen as a "real man" if he cannot support his family. I feel as if though it truly is taught through the culture and it's just become something that is "natural" despite the changing times. I do also notice nowadays that normally a lot of parents are starting to teach their kids how to do outside work. An example is in my girlfriends household. Her dad consistently teaches her and I about working on cars so you don't have to depend on anyone else to do it. It never truly clicked until I read your post!

[Reply](#)

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

Friday

Coming from a hispanic household as well i completely agree with your post. It is the culture we live in that forms us to believe what is right or wrong. Like you said, if one parent was to stay home it would most likely to have been the mother. Why do you think our culture makes us believe that is has to be the women? Do you think it is the previous generations that made us believe that men shouldnt do domestic duties in the household being the womens place was "in the kitchen". I think men and women equally can do each others duties and i believe as we grow older into our generation we will see the gendered division of space begin to close. I believe that in our generation women are starting to gain power, they're attaining better jobs, they're taking less pressure on the males to be the sole provider which will create more domestic duties for men in the household. Even if it is not the "norm" in our hispanic culture i believe that change is inevitable and sooner than later the roles in our society will even out.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Wednesday

There are many examples of gendered divisions within my own culture that I have seen and experienced. The one that I have seen the most definitely has to be men barbequing outside and women cooking in the kitchen. This example does seem to conform with Rosaldo's argument of space which states "male domination was indeed universal and that this domination was directly related to understandings of space" (Melidonis, Week 2 Instructor Guidance). This example of men barbequing and women cooking in the kitchen is exactly what Rosaldo's argument of space is about. It directly correlates with men and women being in different spaces through gender division. Rosaldo's argument also says that men will do the more public things and women will do domestic things. A man cooking outside is very public and a woman cooking inside is domestic. This argument is not related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. Cooking in a kitchen does not seem to relate to what Ortner is saying about women being more related to nature. I think that this division of space is connected to the distribution of power in the culture. If the men get more opportunities to go outside and work they are actively acquiring more power, as oppose to the women who are stuck in a more domestic space. Gendered division of space results in giving more or less power to one of the genders. By diving the genders into different spaces, one gender will be more public and the other will be more domestic resulting in less power. If there is a power inequality there is ways, the less powerful gender can acquire power. They can sing songs and write poems about how unhappy they are, or they can acquire power through their children by making them act on their behalf.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I think the concept of men getting more opportunities in this world to go outside and work is a concept I've never really thought about. Not only is it that people "assume" women should be inside cooking but it is almost just the only opportunity they are given!

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I am going to discuss the gender division and space the Italian culture, which has a strong lean to toward Italian masculine identity. It seems universal that within all cultures, women and men have expectations on how each are to behave, feel, and think per their gender roles, which begins at birth. In the Italian culture public life is male space, and it is an unwritten rule handed down from generation to generation. With Italian men have public space it goes without saying in this culture that a women's space is in a private space, hence comes the old saying, "women's place is in the home". I come from a large pure Italian family that immigrated from Italy who are traditionalists by nature. Today the generations of family members gender roles have begun to slowly move and shift, with my female cousins taking on public spaces and moving out of the private space. As a child, I can remember saying to my mother after a family function that my Uncle Johnny was a chauvinist pig because he says that a woman is the weaker gender and needs to understand their place in society. My sisters I have 3, did not take kindly to this position. This example conforms with Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. My example also clearly is related to Ortner's argument of women's association with nature and men's association with culture. The Italian culture gives the male gender most the power because of the cultural traditions of gender roles having been on display and verbally communicated in conversations that a woman has her place. This power inequality can and should change as women find their place in public space and continue to push their independence and force this male dominate Italian culture to change and mold into a culture where each gender has equality. Women can continue to use education as a tool to gain power and space to put themselves in public spaces which would help the Italian culture to expand their views and the division of power within the cultural window. Have you ever watched the television show "The Cake Boss"? Well if you

have not, you can see just by the title alone how the Italian men see themselves. Buddy Valastro is the boss, and his male family member are the only ones allowed to bake in the bakery and the women are in the front of the bakery selling the goods. This show is a good example of the gender roles in the Italian culture.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Charles Ramirez



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

Wednesday

The question of gendered division of space reminds me of my childhood growing up. Unlike most kids, I dreaded Saturday mornings. I know for many that was typically a time for watching cartoons. I knew that after breakfast my dad and I would head outside to work on the yard and outdoor projects. I always hated that. I swear it seemed like every day of the week was 72 then Saturday would come and it would be 90 degrees and sunny. I recall always trying to talk my way out of the outdoor work, only to get the usual answer "boys with boys and girls with girls."

My older sister and my mom would do work inside the house where the temperature was always nice. I pictured them using a fan, taking their time on whatever "work" it was they were doing inside. So I was raised in a culture where men worked outside and women worked inside.

Using Western culture as a lens I would say yes, that this does conform to Rosaldo's argument. In my story the women were inside in a domestic/private space and my father and I were outdoors in public space. I feel that this is a Western cultural thing more than a universal commonality though.

I really struggle answering the question about power in relation to gendered division of space. In my instance I would say I felt like I was getting the raw end of the deal. So for me it goes beyond gender and more into personality traits. Some people prefer indoors to outdoors, private to public space. However I understand that if males take on more of the public roles such as Politics then they might have some power. To that end that could give more power to that gender.

When there is power inequality then the less powerful can find ways to exert theirs. I hope this doesn't offend anyone, but this question makes me think of the saying "if mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." So a stay at home mom can still set the tone in the home. Is it possible that through our Western lens we think that public space would be the more area of strength; maybe the home is where true power lies since that is where our hearts are.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Mario Serrano



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

Wednesday

Your description of Saturday morning work was funny. It was also a good example of gendered division of space, and the inequality that usually goes with it, as Ortner observed. From your memories about working outside with your dad, I hope two things for you: 1) that you have/will have a job/profession where you work indoors; and 2) that your time spent with your dad will be remembered by the both of you in a positive light. One last point, I totally agree with your comment about where true power may lie.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Leslie Lerda



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

Thursday

Charles, Great post, wow did that Saturday morning take me back to when I was a child. There were 4 girls and 1 boys in the family and he was the oldest. Every Saturday morning he would put a chore list on each of our bedroom doors and assigned us all the work. As we got older we realized his only job was to put up our list and to manage us. Just as you stated we felt the inequality of power and made our voices be heard, "why are we doing all the work every Saturday, while you just sit and watch", from that point on the power shift changed. It is in Western lens that this kind of inequality still exists, and I could not agree more that if we feel less powerful than we have the power to change that. Our space be it public or private is our to define, male or female each of us has the power if we decide to use.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Charles Ramirez



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

10:34am

Mario, yes I actually work in an office and love it. That's why I sometimes think it is more of a personality trait and less biological law that men want to be outdoors working with their hands. To that end and to your second point I appreciate the hardworking ethic my pops left me. I also have continued on that tradition and my two sons and I do yard work every Saturday. The difference is my wife likes the outdoors too so she joins in!

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Wednesday

One example I can think of right away is hispanic gatherings (I am hispanic myself), this can include holidays, birthdays, celebrations or just a simple bar-b-que. Women and men separate from each other, men go sit with the men usually drinking a beer, and women go sit with the women, taking their children with them and chatting/gossiping. When its time to eat, the women get up to serve their husbands and children first, they don't usually sit down until everyone else is comfortable and well served. I do see that Rosaldos and Ortner's argument conforms to my example because the men in my example are talking and drinking a beer socially, the women are also taking but they still have the domestic role of taking care of their children. This can definitely relate to Ortner's argument where since women give birth and breastfeed, they are naturally associated with nurturing and domesticated duties. I also noticed that with this example, it related to Nicholas Townsends article where men are seen as fun parents while women are seen as the un-fun parents, because even at a party the women have to discipline their children. I do believe that the gendered division is in most cultures, and that men usually have the higher end while women are at the lower end and are not up to equal statute of their husbands; Women are often seen as unequal to males, they are seen as too emotional, too committed to their children making them unqualified for full time jobs and etc. One way women try to get power is in an example from our instructor guidance, where women in Greece sing lament songs at funerals, and these songs can reflect their personal lives, so if the husband is treating his wife badly, the women is allowed to sing about in through song.

[Reply](#)

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

10:41am

I can definitely relate to that visual. I have been to many parties and seen that picture. Men drinking and hanging out while women tend the kids and serve up their plate. I think that is picture that Rosaldo and Ortner discuss. I still wonder though if our cultural lens dictates what is the better/power way? In all honesty what is more important than raising children and taking care of a home. At the end of your life do you want your trophies, resumes or your earnings surrounding you? No, most of us want to be with family and friends. So maybe we in our cultural lens we incorrectly value politics, accomplishments and public space as being the most important things.

[Reply](#)

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

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Wednesday

Men are heroes, saviors' expected to act immediately when danger is present; whereas women are supposed to be damsels in distress; never the hero. This is one where I believe fall into both sides of the spectrum, sometimes intentional and sometimes not. For examples, taking into account my own parents, my mother is a strong, independent woman no doubt with a great job and all. However, around my father she would play the damsel in distress very well. Whether it be having my father kill a spider, fix broken items, repair appliances, scolding the children, or whatever she deemed a task requiring a "dominant", "tough" stance; my dad is her hero so to speak. And my dad was all to happy to assist in such task, playing the hero when she called. Despite the obvious assertion to fill a role that they could very be themselves; they displayed happiness during these events. The derived pleasure came from I think, the intrinsic pleasure felt when doing some good. My mom gained warmth from my dad feeling good about himself helping my mother in times of need. The end result was the same, but occurred under different circumstances.

I think this falls into relation with Rosaldo's argument, being that the result of their actions, my mother to be more specific was not a result or product of anything culturally fine printed, and not biologically dependent. The meaning of her actions were rather warranted by the interaction over her activities. Rosaldo insisted that that self is made up of more than just gender and classification due to their sexual identity. My mothers actions were not a result of fulfilling the stereotypical role of "weak" female, but rather formed her own identity and used that ploy to her advantage, a means of good will, knowing my father would feel good after the fact. I don't think it relates well to Ortner's argument because while yes my father did perform the more "dominant" role in taking over situations, my mother did not view it in that light. In addition, her argument that women are closer to nature because of their body's functions and nurture can argued in the sense that in many other parts of the world men are the nurtures. Looking after the young, taking up the role that is locally (U.S.) seen as female dependent, I believe somewhat flawing this theory.

Depending on the culture and scenario at hand, I do believe the pendulum can swing in favor of either gender as a result of gender division of space, mostly men if dealing exclusively in the U.S. Men expected to work while women stay home, men expected to "head of household", women expected to clean house and have dinner ready are all situation in which the power shifts in favor of men. If power inequality does exist, some ways of evening the playing field include deception and deference to name a few. Deception and deference can be played hand-in-hand on same instances, either being an effective means on getting equality. Perhaps the best thing about these is that they can be done unnoticed by the counterpart, a ways to avoid conflict. By internally deciding that they are fine or want a certain outcome to be made, a shift can be made into being the dominant figure if they allow the other to think they are still in control, if that makes sense.

[Reply](#)

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

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Wednesday

As a person from a western culture, I have noticed there is gender inequality. It is especially prevalent in the trade I am a part of. Many men I have encountered as a female electrician have made remarks about how it's a man's job or that I shouldn't have to work as a mom because I should have a man to provide. It is rather annoying hearing things like that because I love working to be able to provide for and give things to my children. I still do all the housework, cooking, and taking care of the kids. I don't really agree with either Ortner or Rosaldo. Townsend is actually who I agree with the most pertaining to my situation. I do however, believe that men in Western Cultures tend to be given more power than that of women. Men are often in higher position when it comes to employment. Women doing the same job as a man often times make less than a man. It seems as though women are seen as inferior.

[← Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

An example of gendered division that I am familiar with would have to be where men are set out to work while the woman is a stay at home mom. Even in today's society many still believe that men should be the ones working and putting food on the table while the woman stays home and takes care of the house or kids. Now, I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with this, but many people still truly believe that this is the right way to live for men and women. Rosaldo thought that the work performed in the household was less important than outside. This topic does both conform and disrupt Rosaldo's argument in my opinion. It really depends on who you are talking to and what they believe in. This could conform because the men are outside of the house working and it could disrupt it because many could argue that the women should be outside of the house working instead of being a stay at home mother or one that just simply does not work. Ortner does believe that cultures think of women as inferior to men. The whole men work and women stay at home debate is a great example of that. Culture of society believes that since men are "stronger and better workers" that they should be out making money and providing for their families whereas females are better housekeepers and stay at home mothers and that's why they should stay at home rather than working. I do think it is related to Ortner's argument in that sense. I believe that it is connected to the distribution of power in the culture because ultimately the culture of people are the ones deciding what is right and wrong. It is silly but people learn to follow their culture's beliefs rather than thinking outside the box. This gendered division definitely gives more power to the men and less to the women (in my opinion.) I believe this because men are looked at in a higher standard than women and are thought to be more reliable and better at providing for their families. There are a ton of power inequalities here. I do not think that the less powerful gender here can really do much to try to gain that missing power. Culture just puts women in general at a lower level than men and that's very difficult to overcome.

[← Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I am Mexican and the gender division that I was taught to believe may or may not be the same from what most people are used to. Mexican mother are meant to be the care givers where some of their roles include: cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, ironing clothes, feeding and looking after children, etc. As for Mexican men, some of their roles include: working for the income, making important family decisions, taking role in leadership programs, etc.

Mexican genders conform to Rosaldo's argument because men are most likely the ones to take on public roles and women usually are the ones in charge of the domestic roles and the same can be said about Ortner's argument, since men are associated with culture and women with nature. Gender division in a Mexican family will play a large role for the distribution of power since men will be more engaged with the community and women will be stuck at home caregiving and breastfeeding the children; therefore, men are the ones with more power in the household. Since there is power inequality, one way that a women may try to get more power is by going to church and socializing with other people to be more engaged with the community.

[← Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

After reading and re-reading the articles I thought long and hard about a culture that I could compare to. I decided to compare my own family which is my culture because it is how I was raised. For me there isn't much of a gendered division of space. All the way back to my great-grandparents that came here from Italy, my great-grandma would be outside with the men building and doing things with the men as well. The men also helped with the "womanly" things. It has always been that way for us. Now as I read the article that Rosaldo wrote I would have to say that, that is the one that conforms best with my situation. I only say this because the women in my family have always worked outside the home along with the men and the men have taken on "motherly" duties to help with that.

This is not related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. The women in my culture have gone against the natural order of what women are "naturally" supposed to do and vice versa.

There is no division of space. In my culture the power is the same for both sexes. There has never been a point where the men have had more power. Sure the women my gather and talk amongst themselves and the men same, but we also are always all together as one talking with power being equal.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

12:58pm

Hi Jessica,

Roles now a days are changing and there are more men doing womanly things and more women doing manly things just as you mentioned on your post. That tells us that no gender is superior than the other because both are perfectly capable of doing each others roles.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I feel that the gendered division of space is diminishing in our society and culture. My dad cooks in the kitchen just as much as my mom, and my mom barbecues just as much as my dad. They both don't stay home, they work full-time jobs. In the households of the majority of my friends the same if not similar situation exists.

This disrupts Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic roles. She felt men were tied to public roles, while women were tied to domestic roles. Which is clearly not the case in our culture anymore. Rosaldo's argument is similar to Ortner's views of men and women's position in a culture. In Ortner's view, the division of space seem to very much be associated with the distribution of power in the culture. This gendered division of space is capable of giving more power to men and less to women. For instance, this gives men the power of providing for the family, while the mother stays home. In turn causing the mother to be dependent on her husband. There are ways women who are the less powerful gender get more power. In Greece, women who attend funerals, where they are aloud to cry lament songs to their relatives and deceased ones. In these songs, women reveal their personal problems they're having with their husbands. If the husband tries to stop her from signing it, he would then be shamed by the community he lives in and would be encouraged to change his view on the matter. By women singing these songs, gives them power that they normally would not have.

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Wednesday

I grew up in a household with gendered division of space; my mom was a stay at home mom my enire life, and my dad worked full ime and supported us nancially. My mom was in charge of keeping the house clean, cooking dinner every night, and keeping track of the kids. My dad was the one who provided for us by working a full ime job and making all of the money for the six members of my family. This very much conforms with Rosaldo's argument about the differences in public and domesic spaces. This is because my dad would go to his workplace, the public space, everyday and interact with others where he acquired his status in his job and in the community. My mom on the other hand, was mostly coned to the domesic space, our house, where her primary focus was the house and us kids. In the view of others, this gave my dad a sense of dominance and importance over my mom and us kids because he had obtained a sense of status and the money we needed to survive. This also relates to Ortner's argument because my mom was indeed associated with nature, the emoions and caregiving aspect of the family. My dad, on the other hand, was associated with networking. However, Ortner feels that nature is subordinate to men and therefore so are women, since they are associated with nature. In this regard, I do not think my parents demonstrated this structure. My dad did not treat my mother as a subordinate and greatly respected her role as a caregiver and homemaker. They each respected each other's roles and recognized that they were both equally important to the survival and happiness of the family. This division of space usually does connect to power distribuon, but in this speciic case, it did not. I believe both genders had equal, but different power.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

12:52pm

Hi Madison,

My household is run the same exact way you mentioned in your post. My mother's role is to keep the house nice and neat and to take care of the kids; on the other hand, my father's role is to work for the income and to have a roof on our heads and food in our mouths. I too agree

that no role is more important than the other because without one of the two roles, nothing would be the way that it is meant to be.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

[Karen Ramirez](#)

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

Wednesday

Growing up in my culture was totally different than now. In Mexico there is "machismo" meaning men think that they are stronger and treat women less. Men think that women should stay at home to take care of their children and cook for them. While they work and provide for their family. It was hard for me to understand my father's way of thinking. What really caught my eye was that my mother could not shower until he got home otherwise he would think she was more likely to have an affair. I was so glad I was brought up in a different culture and now that I'm married and my husband is different I understand that culture does shape the way you act. I do understand that my father was raised that way. He thought it was fine to underestimate women. He felt he had the power to force my mother to stay home. He would never help her clean or even serve him self food my mother had to do everything for him. I believe that this is a division of space connected to the distribution of power in our culture. Our culture taught my father that he had more power than my mother. I think that the less powerful gender does tried to get power through alternative strategies. In my case when my father came to the US he was sending us money and my mother was administrating the money. She paid to built our house. Even though my father was providing the money. My mom tried to get power by making decesions on what to with the money.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

[Emilio Nunez](#)

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

11:22am

My father is from Mexico as well, he came with a "macho" idealism originating from his upbringing. However, he learned over time that maybe they werent exactly the best way to achieve understanding, especially with my mother who was raised to be independent. Clashes werfrequent but they eventually saw equal grounds. Mexico's culture way of viewing the dominance of how men should act and be treated is interesting because nowadays especially in the states it an be viewed as narrow minded; but its important to understand that no ill will or harm is meant by it, that just how they were raised.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

[Melissa Zamora](#)

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

Wednesday

I'm choosing the topic of how women cook in the kitchen and men barbecue outside. I feel like that it definitely has to do gender stereotypes and masculinity. Most of the men who barbecue outside are usually seen wearing a comical apron that will get a few laughs here and there and that are also made out of a more heavy duty material, but women who are cooking in the kitchen are seen with a very frilly or even floral print apron that aren't truly practical for usage or are very short. Growing up, when my family had barbecues the men would gather outside drinking beers cooking all of the meat for the day and in the kitchen would be all the women preparing side dishes or soft drinks. I always thought it was bizarre why the men and women were never really seen cooking together or why the men insisted on cooking the meat for the party. I think the division of space is connected to the distribution of power in the culture because the smaller dishes that are mainly oven baked or non baked dishes were left to the women and the barbecue was for the men to handle. It just goes to show that men wanted the power and authority of making the main dish for the people because they didn't think a woman could handle that duty. This gendered division gave more power to the men and less to the women by showing distrust in a woman to do a "man's job". This example conforms with Rosaldo's argument about public space. Men tend to take up public domain and leave the women to stay confined to a smaller area but still essentially serving them.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

[Magdalena Arceola](#)

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

Yesterday

Hey Melissa'

Men always take charge whether its barbecuing or playing a simple basketball game. They tend to always have control of any giving situation, as women step back and let it be. As I have mentioned before I believe its a balance with the world good vs bad, women vs men, and without it I believe it will be to complicated. Although I think what you said of cooking together its agnate idea showing others a different aspect and passing it on to others. If we can all show harmony and togetherness amongst each other the world can be seen in a whole different way rather then belittling women or vise versa.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

11:29am

I have very similar experiences growing up (still do) when it came to barbecues. I think the cultural aspect it may have to do with even primal times when we had to hunt for our food in order to survive; meat was the source of our scavengers. So i see it as men still tend to relate to meat as being the ultimate prize and masculinity of "manhood". Culture (at least in my family) has not strayed to far away from that theory, which is why i think most men are prime to handling the meat and flame in which to cook it.

[Reply](#)



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

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

Wednesday

Growing up in a household with parents of two different ethnicities, I considered it interesting that even though it was my Dad who would leave the house before I got up every morning and come home late at night, it was my Mom to whom he dutifully gave his check every two weeks and it was my Mom who made sure that these wages were used to cover all the household expenses. My Mom did have a part time job but what little she earned she saved to buy our accessories, like shoes and clothes. So to see my Mom take my Dad's checks and responsibly pay the bills as the head of the household would do, was to me, the norm. Perhaps having a Mom as the si-called head of the home seemed normal to me because I had no other frame of reference. After this week's reading about gendered division of space, I see that, even though it worked nicely in our home, my Mom's and Dad's power roles differed from those of western society's at large.

In a simplistic sense, our home's arrangement disrupted Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. First, my Mom's role was not that of a stay-at-home mom, hence her sphere included the public as well as the domestic. Second, my Dad's role was not one of domination over his wife, my Mom, but one of being on an even keel with her as his equal. As observed by Lamphere (p.84), women can have important roles of power and need to be seen as "active agents" and analyzed in terms of their social location. By doing so, I understand that my parents' wide age difference, as well as their immigrant and blue collar status, affected their gendered space. As for Ortner's discussion of women's association to nature and men's to culture, I think my parents' roles argue against it; namely, they were almost equal financially in that Dad made most of the wages but Mom dispersed them. Furthermore, in the vein of Ortner's argument, even though my Mom's physiology and psyche could be seen as being closer to nature than my Dad's, her social role, on the other hand, could be seen as closer to culture.

Their division of space was definitely connected to distribution of power at home. As the man of the house who brought home the money, one might think that my Dad should have played the more powerful role in our family but it was quite the contrary since it was my Mom who decided how to spend it. I found Roger's studies of the myth of male dominance in the French peasant society very interesting; I believe that my parents' situation exemplified this myth. Just like women in the peasant society covertly wield power by influencing who gets elected to the Municipal Court and thereby who exerts real power in their villages (Rogers, p.24), my Mom covertly wielded power at home by handling the domestic finances. My Mom didn't really control my Dad, but in a sense, she did (wink! smile!). Come to think of it, my parents were "challenging universals" (Melidonis) in the course of their daily life, without even knowing so!

[Reply](#)

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

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Wednesday

I can think of many examples of gendered spaces in my personal life. One that I see often, working in orthodontics, is that there are far less male orthodontic assistants. I don't know if this is because those hiring are less likely to hire men, or if there are just not men who want to work in the dental field. This particular example seems to contrast Rosaldo's idea about public and domestic spaces for men and women, because the women in my job work with the public (patients) all day long. However, there is something to say about the medical field feeling more domestic because you are caring for patients. In terms Ortner's argument, I can't seem to relate to the dental field in terms of nature and culture. I do think that the division of space is related to power, because there are plenty of male administrators and doctors. Males in the dental field tend to have the power, and females tend to be assistants in my experience. To me there seems to be a power inequality in many spaces. Specifically in the dental field, I think that one way to offset this power imbalance is to encourage more women to study dentistry and become dentists putting them in higher positions of power.

[Reply](#)

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1:03pm

Very interesting Sarah, I think you bring up a pretty interesting topic, what with there being a unbalanced ration of men and women in STEM-based careers and ratio. This inequality of power does seem to be a common theme throughout this field, I even saw it just these past few weeks as I've been taking my cat to the vet; I couldn't help but notice that the secretaries and veterinary assistants were made up solely of women, while the only veterinarian on the premises was a man. Granted, it's a very small office and business, so perhaps it would be different in a larger office in a more populated area, but it does add some credence to the suggestion that these fields of study have a large male dominance.

I know there have been a lot of recent organizations that encourage younger girls to study STEM related careers and garner an interest in the research and involvement that go into it, and I think it's a great way to encourage these girls to explore ventures that may be seen as more of a "man's" job.

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[Esterline Ramos](#)

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

Wednesday



Coming from a Mexican background I grew up surrounded with the culture and traditions. In the Mexican culture, it's common for women to take on the role as housewives like cook, clean, and be a stay home mom, while men financially support the family. Machismo, although not as common, still exists today especially in traditional rural areas. Machismo values manliness. A strong sense to dominate, power, strength, and courage, all attributed to masculinity. Males are expected to be assertive and self-reliant, whereas females are expected to be obedient and inferior. The division of space between male and female roles in Mexico is culturally defined by machismo. As new generations come it has slowly started to become a thing of the past since younger men tend to be more open minded. Growing up I remember my mother taking on the role of being a stay home mom and my father being the breadwinner. Both had seen this example with their parents and culture. It was what they were both accustomed to. They had also both determined it was the best for our family and circumstances. Even though my mother's role was to do the domestic duties, my father still often helped my mother with the cooking and cleaning.

The gender roles found in the Mexican culture does conform to Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. The men tend to take on more important public job positions and have more say on them. But, as times are changing it has also become common for women to want to take on more public roles and for men to do domestic roles. It is also related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. Ortner argues that women are viewed closer to nature because of the female body and functions. Along for "her physiological nature and her social roles" (Hodgson, pg.9). The division of space is connected to the distribution of power found in the Mexican culture. Since men tend to take on public roles they are seen to have more power. They also look for public roles where they can acquire some form of power. This gendered division of space ultimately gives more power to men and less power to women. In the Mexican culture men are viewed as the stronger gender so their voice weights more when making decisions. Due to power inequality women tend to get involved in politics on their communities to speak out about justice and inequality. This is one way they're able to find their voice.

Works Cited

Hodgson, Dorothy L. *The Gender, Culture, and Power Reader*. Oxford UP, 2016.

[Reply](#)

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

[HUGO AYALA](#)

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

Wednesday



One example of the gendered division of space that I could think of that came to mind from my own culture is the way that the most recent election unfolded. For the first time in history a woman was running for President of the United States. This woman did not run against another woman, but against a male. If you watched the news or kept track of the election you will now that this woman was Hillary Clinton. This opportunity that Mrs. Clinton had to become the first woman president of the United States did not occur, I believe mainly because of what Ortner argued about women's association with nature and men's association with culture. It seems that it also fit Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. In my opinion the U.S. population was not ready to give a woman that kind of power and it expressed the prevailing attitude of womens role in our society as domestic caretakers and not ultimately in a position of executive power within the highest form of governance in our country.

This division of space is connected to the distribution of power in our culture as it shows that men and women alike felt that a male would be best suited for the position of President at this current time in our history through the method of allowing both male and females to vote for the President. The division of power results in giving more power to the males than to the females. It seems that there is a inequality in power here, and a way that the females, the less powerful gender, tries to gain power is through seats in the positions that check the President such as the Senate and the House of Representatives.

[Reply](#)

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[Michael Wilcox](#)

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

Wednesday



I know this will sound like a bit of a cliché, but your examples are almost exactly what I grew up with. My father was as many called the "bread winner." He also did the barbecuing, fix and repair (except sewing), and reading of the Sunday newspaper. I brought up the newspaper, because that is how he would stay current on public affairs. Mom would clip coupons and look at all the department store advertisements. He was also asked to member of the "knights of Columbus" a prestigious men's only group at church. Anything else involved with house work or child care, he would say "That's women's work." Mom did a tremendous amount of work around the house and with us five kids. She has been a house wife for more than three quarters of her life. She has told me many times, how she wanted to be a mom from a young age.

I believe this example does conform to Rosald's public and domestic division of space. Also, I forgot to mention my mother started and formed small groups of women made up of other house wives. Which is yet another example of spatial division and is similar to Rosald's examples. I think it also relates to Ortner, because in the baby boomer era most high level positions in

society were held by men. So thus far in my post you think that example is pretty standard for those days. So if you saw a TV commercial it would show mom in the kitchen. And when dad got home dinner would be just about on the table right? Yes, that was my childhood and it was great we had lots of fun. However, make no mistake if my mother wanted something. She knew how to manipulate the situation to get what she wanted. For example, one year my mom wanted new carpet and Dad said "no." Dad went away on a trip and came back to see the carpet outside next to the house. I think that is a good example of the less powerful getting power through alternate strategies. Sometimes my brothers and sisters would joke about who really wore the pants in the family. Ha Ha after writing that, I just realized how even that joke has some devaluation of women in it. Up until recent years because everyone wears pants now. I wrote about that joke to make a point. The point is that even though it may have appeared that my Dad had all the power. Us kids knew that Mom had a special power of her own. This weeks reading was crazy for me, because I could identify with almost every example. There were times growing up where I saw my Dad wield all the power. Then just the opposite where everyone knew, don't mess with Mom.

Also; **Thank you** all for your responses last week. All feedback is much appreciated.

 [Reply](#)

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

Wednesday

I remember being little and watching my mom cook, clean, and take care of my brothers and me while my dad was in the military. To this day my dad always talks about making sure he is able to provide for his family even though he is no longer the only bread winner. Since then, my mom has worked her fingers to the bone to help make ends meet. In the Week 2 Instructor Guidance it states, "Women who work are often thought to be neglectful of their children whereas men who work are considered good providers", but it amazes me that even though my mom works, she is still doing the usual cooking, cleaning, and now taking care of my nieces. As for my dad, he took a para-educating job at a high school which is a part time gig and went back to school to get his masters. In this case the "gender roles" slightly switched in my family, but it is still unclear at least to me who really has the power. Since my mom became a lot more involved with the money making I would say she does obtain more power, but because my dad has more education than she does, she still seems to give him the power. I don't know whether to link this to public and domestic space or men's association with culture and women's association with nature, but I believe it is very hard to proclaim anything to be universal when there are many different cultures and situations.

 [Reply](#)

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

Wednesday

In the Mexican culture (in Mexico), males have the freedom to leave the home at their discretion whether it is for work or pleasure. The men are considered the bread winners and providers for the family. The men exert independence and domination in the family. Women on the other hand, are expected to stay home and care for the family and household. They are dependent on the husband because he is the provider for the family. Women are not expected to be outside the home without their husbands. They exert the nurturing trait and are expected to be mothers and nothing else. In the Mexican culture, it does conform to Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. Men are able to do as they please in public while women are expected to be domestic and stay at home. It is also related to Ortner's argument about women's association with nature and men's association with culture because women are considered nurturing individuals as they care for their children more than the men do.

The division of space is connected to the power of the gender in the Mexican culture. Men are considered dominant and women domestic. Men have the power to do as they please. This is part of the culture in Mexico. It is part of the Mexican culture in the United States as well where those domestic roles are still applied today. The gendered division of space results in giving more power to males and less power to females. This is because women are not given the provider or dominant role, men are. With this role, comes more power and it is displayed by the fact that men can do whatever they want, whenever they want.

In the Mexican-American culture, things have changed in the past few decades where women are in a better position of power. More women have entered the workforce and in some powerful positions. Men are still in the workforce but because times have changed, there is not as much of a problem for women to be independent themselves. With time comes change and in the Mexican-American culture today, it is more acceptable for women to take on the same roles as males to provide for the family. As a child, born to Mexican-American parents, I was taught to serve the men as a domestic role of the woman. Although times have changed, there are still some of the gender roles from the Mexican culture that are still in place today here in the U.S. It is part of the culture to take on the domestic role even when you are also taking on the provider role. It is hard for me to conform to the Mexican culture because I grew to be an independent adult. Because of this, I don't fully conform to the Mexican culture as expected by others because I don't just see myself in only a domestic role. I feel that I can do serve both roles as head of household and caregiver to my children and spouse

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Wednesday

Growing up, these topics were all related to me. I had to hear my grandmother telling me that because I am a girl I had to learn how to cook and clean. I remember both my grandparents (mom and dad's parents) telling me that they grew up poor, and it was the men that went out for work to bring home the money and food. In that time, women had many babies so someone had to stay with them, and it was natural that they did, because their breast had the food to feed their babies. Might be a dumb point but when you think about it, cavemen did the hunting, woman did the caring for the little ones and it all became a cycle. One that men take advantage of. Today women are much more successful so I believe when it comes to women being submissive to their

men, I think it has something to do with either it being taught growing up because they saw a man being the authoritative figure or because women are dependent in their men and they have no other option. I feel like my argument is related to Ortner's argument because it was all a cultural thing that was passed down to us, but when it comes to the relationships today I believe its related to Rosaldo's argument because there is so much competition today so men want to make more money than others, want to be successful, and want new things, that's why they try hard to succeed. If women become dependent in men, most men will have power in the relationship. They woman would be staying home while the men did what they pleased and maybe sometimes not even that. Also how the men saw things growing up. If the men in the boys life where controlling, chances are they might be as well. In my marriage, my husband and I are equals, we cook and clean together, he doesn't support me, and I don't support him, we support each other. His father worked and his mother stayed home caring for the children but his parents always told him to treat a woman with respect and that you care for them. It could be all a cultural thing, a taught thing, or personality thing. You want to treat your other half as an equal or you want to dominate them, that's entirely in their control but also if your partner lets you.

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Hendrich Occidental



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

Wednesday

An example of gendered division culture that I can think would be positions in retail. These positions are sought to be mainly female while from my experience I have seen males that are in position of a type of manager. In Rosaldo's point of male dominance is universal, female retail managers do not apply. In the course of higher positions like the managers district managers, I have seen both male and female though it was mainly female. The higher positions are publicly be a norm to be applied with universal male dominance.

Ortner's view sees that these positions would be at more likely female out of the reasoning of that retail is mainly populated with female shoppers. When it comes to the industry females taste would be more desired. Having the knowledge of not the fashion part but the business aspect points out to male from having seen once that the corporate visit were two males. In this business and industry I would say at retail store is mainly powered towards females while positions above that can be powered evenly to both since the fashion part of it revolves into female and metro/homo taste and fashion sense. That would be the alternative strategy to moving to higher position in this culture.

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Yanessa Delgado



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

7:26am

Hendrich good discussion, I do notice more females in retail than men as well, and the majority of higher positions as male; it's a little funny to think that in Ortner's views the reason for this is the fact that women have better taste than men and are more able to help customers while shopping. I do see that as you stated the "female and metro/homo taste and fashion sense" would apply to both male/and females, because that part of the industry is just as tough but definitely more open to women being in charge.

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Erhan Vacker



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

Wednesday

I believe the main assignment posting already gives great examples of this gendered division of space between men and women, all of which are one that are quite commonly seen in our culture. I think an interesting thing to add onto these already listed differences between men and women is how they are instilled in children at a young age.

During the kindergarten years, for example, it's usually the female children playing house, dress up, pretend cooking, etc, essentially very domesticated roles that they are expected to attend to at a later age. The male children, on the other hand, are often out playing sports, roughhousing with one another, typically very masculine roles. When we see these roles switched around between genders, i.e. the little girl throwing the football or the little boy playing house, it's unfortunately the adults who are uncomfortable about it (the children don't seem to mind, and the ones who do have often had outside influence about it AKA their parents). While it may raise a few eyebrows, the little girl will only be seen as a tomboy, which some parents won't be too worried about. There is definitely more silent conversations about the little boy taking care of the baby, however; is he going to grow up to be gay? Maybe his dad isn't spending enough time with him?

I would say that this does seem to flow with Rosaldo's theory; at a younger age, the boys are being coached to put themselves in a position of power and dominance, sometimes at the expense of the girls, with phrases like "boys will be boys" being uttered as though it's just normal for perhaps men to be a bit more emotionally distant and instead more physically dominating, the women being the reversal of this. Ortner's theory also holds true, what with there being more of a family focus being pushed onto younger girls as opposed to one of independence and assertion for herself.

I'd definitely say there is an unbalance of power within our culture, and the lecture covers it a bit, mentioning things such as women being paid a lower wage or being expected of less in terms of seeking and maintaining a career (especially one where they are in a position of power). In terms of gaining power, there has definitely been more social awareness of the issue in the modern day, with both men and women alike protesting for equality of a number of factors, and while many of the same issues still remain in tact to this day, there has certainly been a shift towards the better.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29693>

Jazmin Akroba



<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29693>

Yesterday

Hi Dylan,

Your ideas are very well written! It's interesting to stop and think how much boys and girls are influenced by culture. I hadn't given it too much thought in the past; I always felt as though men and women behaved a certain way due to their biology, but my thoughts have substantially shifted. I am excited to see more equal opportunities open up for women and feel as though we are heading in the right direction.

◀ [Reply](#)

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12:28pm

I really like how you mention the kindergarten example of the girls playing house, and dressup and the boys playing sports and roughhousing. It really is interesting how people would react to see a girl playing with a football or a boy playing dressup. It seems gender is getting influenced at an early age in American culture.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Wednesday

The culture I grew up in, women are there ones who stay at home and take care of their children. The ones who cook, cleans the house, buys groceries, basically all household work and the men are the ones who work for their family. Ones who fix broken things, the ones who do "manly" stuff. These examples conform with Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic roles because her argument states that "male domination was indeed universal and that this domination was directly related to understandings of space. Rosaldo felt that in their drive to acquire status, men tended to take on public roles in most cultures. Females, in contrast, tended to be tied to domestic roles such as cooking or taking care of children." I think it is also somewhat related to Ortner's arguments about women's association with nature and men's association with culture because women tend to be more emotional, sensitive and men tend to be a lot "stronger" and masculine.

This gendered division of space is giving less power to one of the genders because I feel like they make it seem like women have to do this and men have to do that. They're basically saying that women have to do just domestic roles and men just taking public roles. Even if I grew up in a culture where the women have to stay at home, cook etc and the men have to work and do more public roles, I personally don't like this gendered division. Women can do what men are "supposed" to do and vice versa. Due to power inequality, women have done marches and protests to get power through alternative strategies. For example, the Women's March in Washington DC. It was a worldwide protest that was held in January of this year and they pretty much protested for women's rights, immigration reform, etc.

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Yesterday

Hi Nikki! Great write up and relating Ortner's and Rosaldo's thesis to your own. It is interesting to see you point of men tending to be a lot "stronger" and resolving to not be sensitive or emotional when that leads to problems in relationships down the road when the man is emotionally absent. There has to be something to that in anthropology and why would that be the case in so many instances when it hurts the society. I agree, the gendered division is lopsided but has been making large strides in the past generation. I see many more men taking on roles previously "for women only" and women being sole breadwinners.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Wednesday

In my family, a prominent example of gendered division of space is shown by my grandparents. My grandparents were raised in Mexico with a culture that heavily promotes gender roles and division of space. Every day before he leaves for work, my grandpa leaves my grandma "homework" for the day. He lets her know what needs to be done at the house in terms of cleaning/etc, what needs to be cooked for dinner, and what time he's going to be home. My grandma stays at home all day completing the tasks my grandpa leaves her in time for when he returns home. My grandpa assumes the role of the "breadwinner" and my grandma tends to the house and the family. I'd say that this example conforms with Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space. My grandpa, the man, spends his day out in the public space, working and socializing. While my grandma, the woman, is confined to the domestic space of tending to the house and cooking. As Ortner described, my grandpa is more involved with culture: networking, making decisions, etc. and my grandma is more involved with the "nature" side of things: taking care of the

house/family, feeding the family, etc. I've always felt that this structure of gender division of space is the result of the prominent idea of male dominance within Mexican culture. The man is considered the stronger, wiser, leader of the family and the woman is always put in the support role and is there to cook and tend to the housework. Just from observing my grandparents, I would say this system gives my grandpa most of the power and authority in the relationship because since he works and makes the money, he gets to call the shots according to how he was raised. By keeping my grandma home, he can decide how her day goes and what she does that day. And since my grandma was raised thinking that's the way it's supposed to be, she has no problem with it because she thinks that's what her contribution and role is. My grandma doesn't even know how to drive, my grandpa is the one who drives. This only gives him more power and say in what she does and where she goes because he drives her around. As far as ways that the less powerful gender (my grandma) tries to get power through other strategies, I would say that my grandma mostly exerts the power she has through the food she makes. Sometimes she ignores my grandpa's instructions and does things her way and cooks what she wants how she wants to. At the end of the day, my grandpa has to eat what's there whatever it is because he's not going to cook once he's home from work. My grandma also arranges things in the house however she wants to because since she's the one that cleans and tends to the house, she calls the shots of how decoration and arranging goes.

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Wednesday

My husband and I like to meet up with friends on the weekends and bbq. Depending on the weather we usually all sit outside together. Though if its cold we will sit inside with the children and the men stay outside drinking and cooking. At times the roles do reverse when some mothers are working and the fathers bring their kids. Though it is true there is division and mostly because they say it's our time to talk about our men and what goes on at home. When I was single and I would go out it wasn't such a division, men and women all came together. Once I had children and got married it became a different lifestyle. I tell my husband that its boring to listen to these ladies talk about their home dramas. I just want to go out there with him and drink a beer but I wouldn't feel welcome from his friends. Though at home my husband and I bbq and drink beers together all the time. I would say its in the middle of conforming and disrupting because there are some similarities at times. Some of our children are young and they cant be in the cold all the time so they need to be inside. As i stated before in our circle of friends it really depends on the weather, when its nice out we all come together and include each other in the conversations. From my personal experience I would say that women are more associated with culture than with nature. Most of the men are agriculture works or do some type of handyman job or are in the food service industry. This is were I am in the middle once again from my personal experience I grew up with a very strong mother and a very shy timid father. Growing up my father was shy to speak English and my mother or my sisters always spoke for him or at times had to translate. I find myself in this same situation at times with my husband, his first language is Spanish. When we go to restaurants or stores I find myself feeling in control due to the language barrier. I feel there are times when the power is distributed and its not always given to the man. In my culture it is said that men are "Machistas" and they have to act a certain way. My grew up with five sisters and he is the only boy, he feels that women should be treated equally. His father wanted to raise him with the "Machismo" values but he didn't agree with that sort of entitlement. In my bbq example I guess it gives the men more power because they don't have any type of responsibility. The women have to watch the kids and not drink alcohol so we can be the designated drivers. There is power inequality for sure but I guess I never noticed any gender strategies. I guess I need to dig deeper and take a look at my current situation and evaluate it a bit more.

◀ [Reply](#)

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Thursday

Hi Erika,

I really love how your post highlights Ortner's theories regarding nature vs. culture. Women in our culture are often thought to be more susceptible to nature while men can utilize culture to overcome nature (women are often thought to be more emotional, less rational, etc.) Your weather discussion is fascinating because it seems to reinforce this understanding (the women must stay inside when its cold because they cannot tolerate nature). I also like your discussion on men's talk and male bonding. The understanding is common that men need time to talk in order to bond (their bonds are bonds of culture which help them overcome nature). What do you think about this analysis?

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

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Yesterday

Hi Professor,

I did enjoy reading your analysis it definitely gets me thinking deeper. You make some very great points.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

Wednesday

A gendered division of space in Mexican culture I can think about is the one where the man is the provider who works and the wife; stays home. This example isn't always the case now or then to many marriages; my mother worked for as long as I can remember and my father was fine with it. Although my mother worked during the morning to midafternoons, she'd come home and do house work, she'd cook, clean, take care of my family regardless if she spent all day working. On the other hand, I do have an aunt whose husband wasn't into the idea of her working as well as going out. I don't really think she minds it now, she loves her children and has a great bond with each of them and she keeps busy with projects she enjoys to do. She's stated her ground with her husband and visits her family in Mexico often which is great.

I believe it conforms to Rosaldo's argument, she mentions how women become domesticated because of culture and that's what happens to many Mexican women. From a young age they're expected to follow their mother's footsteps in becoming a great housewife. I'm not exactly sure that Ortner's argument on nature and men's association with culture is related. No, Ortner argues that female biology is the reason why we're overpowered by men while Rosaldo believes it is created because of marriages. The gender division of space results in less power to one gender because of culture. If you grow up in a culture that emphasizes male dominance the female will typically be seen secondary. I believe so, the less powerful gender might be successful in receiving a higher pay or a higher position, they may also continue with schooling, etc.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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Yesterday

Great write up Bernice! It is interesting to read on the Mexican culture as I am not too familiar. I do however see a trend of the recent generations having a dynamic shift from female in the house and male at work. You make a great a great point in that with the reflection on your Aunt stated her ground, effective boundary power, and got what she needed which was her family in Mexico. Although these dynamics are changing, through more economical freedom and fairness across the board, Rogers did bring up a good point on the peasant society that can be equated in many cultures. That is the men and women devise spheres of power. It is necessary, I believe, in order to establish ownership of area or roles. Our grandparents story is similar to yours, but today many relationships demonstrate alternative spheres. Two working parents could be interpolated as the new spheres of power and the end of mythical male dominance as Susan Rogers wrote of in our text.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

My apologies, I spelled your name wrong Berenice.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

In Japanese culture they separate women and men in a specific way, the Japanese language has a male and female dialect where female dialect has fewer words. They separate this to make things "easier" for women to understand. They believe men to be more intelligent so women are expected to be domesticated and men are expected to provide. This supports the Ortner's argument. Japanese culture is what separates women and men and takes any chance of power from women before they develop these chances to gain knowledge and strength. Women in this culture strive for higher positions to fight this inequality in professional fields like government, science, and business which are more commonly male dominated fields. Another way is to be in a position to support a man with power where their strengths reflect their success in being with this person.

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

Thursday

Hi Summer,

It is very interesting to think about how these divisions operate in contemporary Japanese culture. Many "salaried men" work long hours and are expected to go out and drink with their coworkers after work. As the sole wage earners, one would expect them to be dominant over the household but their absence from the household means that women in the culture tend to exercise a lot of power. When these men retire, it can lead to an awkward situation where they now feel out of place and where their power is even further diminished. Great job,

Arion

[◀ Reply](#)

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

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

Thursday

Hi Summer,

I had no idea that Japanese culture acted in that way. Do you think that Japanese women actually have a harder time understanding than men? There isn't a sex that is smarter than the other. If a woman supports a man with power, then she will still be unequal to him and not have as much power. I feel like being with a man in power gives a woman even less power also causing the women to feel inferior.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



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

Yesterday

Summer,

Wow, I had no idea. Ortnr does seem to be on to something with the nature and culture theme and it's dominance in societies gender. I think your last sentence has a lot to say about Japanese culture, is that the woman essentially gains cultural power is indirectly through the man she supports? Sounds like status of a First Lady in the U.S.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



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

1:14pm

Hello Summer! I had heard of there being male and female dialects in the Japanese language, but I had always presumed it was similar to Spanish in which there are masculine and feminine pronouns for certain things, not necessarily relating to gender in most cases, like the indefinite articles for a dress being masculine. The fact that women in a way are being taught a condensed version of the language (correct me if I'm wrong) as opposed to men is actually very surprising. Is this something that is still prevalent in the modern day, or are men and women using a more blended version of the dialect?

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27662>



<https://vccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/27662>

Wednesday

The division between males and females has always existed in our culture, the men have always been the providers while women stay home and take care of the kids. throughout the years we have seen these divisions break and many women are now working and it is not uncommon to run into a stay at home dad. As a society we seem to give men more power, in the work place males make more than what females make when they are doing the same job.

◀ [Reply](#)

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



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

Thursday

Hi Daniela,

Some theorists argue that gender roles have actually changed over time and that the idea of universal male dominance is actually a myth perpetuated to help legitimize this dominance. What do you think about this point? How do we know that men have always been dominant?

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

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



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

Wednesday

To talk about the division gender of space from my own culture I would have to compare it to the westernized beliefs that Women are meant to be in the kitchen and men go out and bring home the bacon. I don't fully agree with this and I am happy that so many women are breaking these beliefs and going out and working hard instead of the "Norm" brought up by generations. Now my family is from Mexico and the women are also supposed to take care of the house and kids and the men go out and work so it does conform with Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space where the man's space is at his job and the woman's space is in the home with the children. I guess you could say that it does also relate to Ortner's argument about women are more associated with nature because they have the "maternal instincts" so raise and nurture the children and the men are the ones of culture because they are the decision makers and hold power and authority because they make the money and pay the bills. This division of space gives less power to the women because they are seen as not a hard worker because they run the house and the men hold all the power because they have the money. The less powerful could change this by going out if possible and contributing to the house hold in other ways than just being a mother but bringing home money to pa the bills as well BUT usually in my family's culture alot of women dont get the chance unless they are a single parent because i know women like one of my Tia's was never taught to drive because my tio did not want her to leave and shes never been out to work shes always just taken the domestic role. So it can be done to gain power for the powerless gender but its not always the easiest choice and would take work if you've been stuck in the domestic role for such a long time.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

12:22pm

I definitely agree that Mexican culture uses division of space to give less power to the women, because they are told that they have to take care of domestic work and look after the children. The less powerful gender in this situation can use their children to acquire more power by having their children act on behalf of the weaker gender to gain more power.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I would like to bring up a cultural norm of where I grew up in the cold continental climate of Minnesota. Winters are long and bitterly cold, sometimes -42 degrees Fahrenheit, and that commits a community, society and family to stay indoors for up to 8 months. Driving around the land of "10,000 lakes" that are frozen up to 50" thick, I would be amazed on the amount of ice shacks that would be on the frozen hydro-plain. My father would often say, "they're are out there because they hate their wives...". I would shrug a smirk in response as I knew that slapstick humor is prevalent in the region to fend off the irritably long winters. But now, I think different. To understand this, look at the picture below. Usually 100% male occupied and a typical site for hundreds of miles around, but compared to sunny Southern California, a distant thought.



In staying in this one example, and after reading the text for this week it does not disrupt Rosaldo's argument about public and domesticated spaces. The men are more than willing to spend hours, if not days, on a frozen abyss where they will fish for perceived subsistence to their family. Often contending sappy reasons why they didn't catch anything or so proud of their catch that they need to snap pictures of their all-important trophies. These manifestations of public spaces are also shown with ornate decor of their shacks, to show the surrounding shacks and local people their public domain that is necessary during an eight month ice-age. If not for this, all would be hurdled in the household in the wife's domain in which all domestic space would be infringed upon. Clearly, the men tend to vacate the natural caricature of the household that is associated with women and devise a plan, unbeknownst that all the other husbands are doing the same thing. The ice villages can populate to many hundreds of men, especially if their is a good fishing hole. The division of space is visible in that men try to establish a culture outside the house that would otherwise be necessary for survival in the life threatening cold weather. Is it necessary? Just because summer is over and the husband is overstaying his invite in the wife's domain, doesn't mean she will allow it for long. The men get the mythical power of public acknowledgement that they are publicly seen on the ice in a "productive" manner and the wife gets to win her sphere of domain back. In Susan Carol Rogers paper, she alludes to the mythical importance of the husbands public life, even though there isn't much real power of prestigious public exposure. The power in Minnesota frozen lake isn't any different than it is in summer. Paraphrasing Rogers' writing, the wife is willing to let the husband take credit for the family's reputation to the public, as long as the wife is able to puppeteer the decision making at home. In this aspect, the power seems to level out in all aspects in compromise. In fact, the husband feels like he is making strong decisions, but it seems the wife has cunningly figured out how to get her husband out of her sphere of domain. As the husband sits out on the frozen lake, the wife got what she needs and the husband is alright feeling in-charge. A stooge he may be, but there the power is easy to divvy up. So as my father may say that they are out there on the cold ice because they hate their wives, it now can be argued with this weeks text, that them being out there is what is holding their marriage together.



◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Thursday

Wonderful work Mark!

I love your writing, which really transports us to the culture. You do a great job of thinking about the nuances of gender roles here and of applying the course theories. Your description feels functionalist in that the practices seem to reinforce the functioning of the society. The men are made to feel that they have achieved heightened status because they are recognized by other men as being public and as being providers and the women exert informal power expertly. Many anthropologists have noted these kinds of arrangements in a number of different cultures. Basically, one group is made to feel all powerful while another actually exercises a significant amount of power. As you point out, this may be the secret to a successful society/marriage. Great job,

Arion

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

I believe that in every culture everything is different. In my culture, which is hispanic Mexican, I grew up with my grandfather dominating my grandmother. My grandmother had to do everything my grandfather told her to do so, if she didn't do as said my grandfather would punish her. Now a days, generations change, my father and mother both work they didn't tend to follow that same cycle. In my opinion I personally think no one is greater than another they are both equal. If the father works while the mother stays at home taking care of the children and having all the house duties done I think thats a tough job as well and people don't realize that. People might think men are greater because they are capable of doing more things than women. In reality they are equal women might do the same things as men just differently. In a Mexican family barbecue men are usually the meat cookers they season the meat and they cook it. On the other hand women usually cook the rice and beans and salads etc. They have the plates ready and get the tables ready. They both do different duties but they work together as one team. I see no greater person as of in my opinion.

◀ [Reply](#)

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29693>

<https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/1503/users/29693>

Thursday

Hi Ashley!

I also grew up in Mexican culture and share many similar opinions with you. It is very common for both mothers and fathers to work in today's current time, but I have noticed that many women are still expected to take on most of the household responsibilities. For example, even though both of my parents work my father still expects my mother to cook dinner and keep

the house clean. Being a stay-at-home parent is absolutely a difficult role that isn't appreciated enough. I recall Professor Melidonis saying that society values a job over being a stay-at-home parent because one generates income while the other does not. I also do not think any gender is greater than the other and that we should work together instead of assigning roles.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

Hi Jazmin,

Being a stay-at-home parent is very difficult. Having been on both sides and my wife the same, it seems as if being the one with a profession gives you a break from the daily grind of household chores. I do agree with you, as I have done both profession and stay-at-home, and the latter is much more demanding!

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

Hi Ashley & Jazmin,

I myself grew up in Mexican culture and I am first generation. My parents came from Mexico at a very young age and they both lost their parents at a very young age. Growing up my mother was the main bread winner and she worked late as for my dad he worked full time but didn't make as much. He was home with my sisters and I and he did most of the cooking and cleaning. It wasn't your typical stay at home mom situation and that gave me and my sisters a very different view. I am now married and have a baby and I am a stay at home mom. My husband and I both agreed that it was best for our son and for our finances. My son is now 10 months old and I feel horrible saying this but I can't wait to get back to work. I feel like I am not contributing at all and staying home all day is really hard. Don't get me wrong I love being home with my son but its very difficult cooking and cleaning all day its never ending. I appreciate my husband he treats me with respect and makes me feel valued and treats me like his equal. Being first generation and a stay at home mom I feel is looked down upon even more. I started working at the age of fourteen and being a stay at home mom is one of the hardest jobs I have ever had.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Yesterday

Hi Ashley. Your last sentence is quite powerful in a sense that it summarizes all the papers we read for this week. Ortner wrote on the topic thoroughly and divided men to be representative of the family on the culturalistic side of thing and women to maintain the naturalistic realm. Though I agree with Sherry Ortner that this is probably derived from the viewpoint that a woman is seen as the nurturer to the family in the cycle of rearing a family. I am a big part of the household duties as a husband and as I read of your grandparents and know of mine (Germany), there seems to have been a pattern of *male privilege* instilled into the society in the realm of Judaeo-Christian frame of thought that was asserted via the Bible. It seems as globalization continues both culturally and economically, this leverage of pseudo-power is feigning and ushering in a new dynamic roles of Mr. Mom, Mr. Clean, Tomboy wives, etc. Do you agree?

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Wednesday

From the sample topics up above definitely hits the nail right on the head with my examples on Rosaldo's arguments on public roles and women taking on domestic roles. When I was growing up, my dad would always control the barbeque grill while my mom was in the kitchen, I am not sure if it was a power thing or a gender thing but we would not let anyone near his grill besides himself and my brother. Even when going out, it was either we go out as a whole family or he goes out with his friends and my mom stays home and tends to the kids. The division of space in the culture, the powers do seem to lean towards the males and less for females. Some traditional men will always feel that they are entitled to more power than females and that females should only tend to their own gender roles. There is power inequality, some would not admit it, but women do get seen as second place, but they can always gain power in different way, such as caretaking, if a woman stops caring for their kids, household tasks or financial organization, some men would scramble because it is something they are not used to.

◀ [Reply](#)

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

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

Thursday

Good work Cheneae,

Do you think that this kind of division is universal? Are men programmed to want to have power over females?

Arion

[← Reply](#)

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

Kelly Tami

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

Wednesday

The gender division in Latin culture involves women doing the household chores which tends to be cooking and cleaning. The men often go to work while the women have to stay at home and take care of the children. The roles are based on their gender roles which I believe that Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space does conform this idea of culture. In her fundamental research she stated "male domination was indeed universal and that this domination was directly related to the understandings of space" (Melidonis, Week 2). I do agree with her argument and it does conform with this since men usually dominate the women in many aspects. Gender is heavily influenced by culture which affects them by taking particular roles in society. I do agree with what she stated "cultures that have greater distinctions between public and private space would have greater inequality between men and women" (Melidonis, Week 2). It is related to Ortner's argument since we see men having more connections with jobs and such. The women tend to focus more on their children and household. Ortner believed "that these associations were universal because it is women who give birth and who breastfeed infants" (Melidonis, Week 2). I feel like division of space does connect to division of power. Townsend says "even in the area of discipline and punishment, the father's position is the ultimate authority and mothers are considered the mediators" (103). Gender division results with the tendency of women staying home which reduces their power because they are dependent on men for money and because it limits their ability to network (Melidonis, Week 2). The society has now changed in more ways because women now work also and they take care of the kids as well. They have more power which is good but it's not equal as men. Since there is power inequality the women will try to compete and work harder to obtain that power that they deserve.

[← Reply](#)

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

Janice Wilmont

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

Wednesday

Central and South Pennsylvania has a unique quirky culture sense to it. The town I come from is almost half Amish or Mennonite population. Like the fictitious village of G. F. in Roger's paper, the men operate in a very distinct sphere than the women. There is a power inequality in the Amish way as the women are pushed more to the nature role of our species than to the cultural role. This is heavily due to the fact that men are the sole elder group that make decisions that not only affect their own family but those decisions trickle down through the entire clan of families. Each family is typically responsible for a specific role in share farming, similar to the CUNU of G. F. The men have a specific advantage and keeping woman more subordinate than in the village of G. F. (more to follow below), and hold the only seats to interact with local, state and federal government. As you will see, because the clan is derived on a very strict adherence to the interpretation of the Bible and a specific way to live an agrarian life, they contend to the government that they are indeed a religious entity, or church, an exempt from taxation on property, income and a plethora of other policy loopholes such as road tax, as they ride horse and buggy. The women's association conforms with Rosaldo's argument about public and domestic space, but to follow up as promised, the women are held to a further division of inequality in the aspect and enforcement of male privilege as proclaimed in their interpretation of the Bible.

Furthermore, the women are prohibited from interacting on a cultural level and mimic G. H. lifestyle, but with more seclusion. Much are similar is domestic chores and responsibilities of child rearing that are remnant of Ortner's argument about these women are more strictly aligned because their perceived association with nature. In some clans I've witnessed (not all), the women are illiterate and the men control most all decisions of the household. It would seem these women are kept in the dark on many matters and rely heavily on information disseminated by the elders. The only way the women, less powerful, garner any leverage is through association with other clan women and women within their realm. Through manipulation and planning, they may make subtle assertions in decision by provoking a chain of events and in anticipated reaction, get what they are desiring. That is a lot of work just to be heard. Though I make it sound like all Amish are like this, that is not true. I am recalling one specific clan I had interactions with that had a profound reliance on male privilege via the Bible. The women there seem to be in a never ending servant status and maintain a ever presence of lower status as Sherry Ortner describes in her paper. However, they seem humble to do so as it serves their religious views. Please remember, everything is still word by mouth, no newspapers, no phones and nothing but a horse to get to the farthest distance. When I am there visiting, it's a throwback to the early 1800's and makes for a great Anthropology 105 field trip!

[← Reply](#)

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

Arion Melidonis

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

Thursday

Wonderful work Julie,

Well done! How cool that you got to hang out with these groups. I really like your use of Ortner's argument regarding nature vs. culture. In general, the Judeo-Christian tradition tends to emphasize women's association with nature and men's association with culture, so it makes sense that the Amish and Mennonite populations would also follow this understanding. I loved your discussion of how women in the culture utilized leverage to gain power. While the gender roles clearly give men more formal power, it is probably the case that women utilize a number of different techniques to gain influence. Actions like this really disrupt notions of the universal domination of men because they demonstrate that women do have at least some access to power although it may be less recognizable at first. Early anthropologists tended to miss female forms of power because they were mostly men and did not have as much access to women's networks.