



This is a graded discussion: 100 points possible

due Apr 12

## Week 4 Discussion Post: The Cultural Construction of Gender and Personhood. (3 posts total)

79 79

Select a specific culture (from this week's readings, instructor guidance, your own culture or another culture that you are familiar with) and discuss how they culturally construct gender. What gender roles does the culture encourage and what does the culture do to reinforce them? How do their gender roles relate to their cultural values and their symbolic system? Are there any rituals or practices that help to encourage a particular understanding of gender? Do you agree with their construction of gender? Why or why not? Why does their version of gender make sense to them? Are there any advantages and disadvantages to their version of gender identity in comparison to your own culture?

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

Reply

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Tiffany Rogers



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Wednesday

In American culture, there are definite norms that are expected of different each gender. Even though America is mostly liberal in acceptance of different genders and more open to change, there are still many things that would make most American's head turn if they were to be viewed in public. These instances could be something like a boy wearing a pink dress or a girl with a buzz cut. Although seemingly harmless, there are some taboo-like thought processes in our society. The way these thoughts are reinforced is through our media. Watching any cartoon station's commercials for a few minutes and its understandable why people believe, from a young age even, that boys and girls are very separated in likes. While watching a commercial about a cartoon about girls living together, my 5-year-old nephew told me that I'd like that show and that he can't wait for me to watch it. I told him I wouldn't like that show and he argued that I will. So these thoughts are ingrained very early on. These predetermined paths that are set for each gender are very frustrating for me personally because of thoughts like this. That because I am a girl shallow assumptions can be made about me and who I am. From a girl's perspective, it is mildly frustrating how perfectly shaped women are shown in movies and TV. These are also standards implanted into all genders and puts a lot of pressure on people to feel like they look good. Beyond just the toys and entertainment we are expected to enjoy, the dynamics at home can be tricky. I live in a house with 4 men, and I am the only one who does the dishes. Likewise, I never take out the trash. This feels natural, but should it? Is it fair? I think a better system would be to rotate roles but this understanding feels deeply ingrained. In a lab I was working in, I was the only female of the bunch. The egos of all of these men were beyond belief. They were ready at any moment to call out the other on their mistake rather than try to solve a problem together. Maybe this society puts pressures on men to be aggressive against other men, an alpha-male like ideology. Being the only female, I felt it was also assumed I would be the weakest link as I was given minimal help by the others and had sexist remarks made at me, such as being "only there to wash the dishes". These assumptions about women being only good for dishes and cleaning and cooking comes from some truth because in my own home I am the only one who does the dishes. Is it so far-fetched for people to believe these things when our society has joked and ingrained so much already? Whether its correct or not that those are the only things I'm capable of, I believe the way girl's are perceived at a young age through mass media has created this image at varying degrees.

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Jane Wainert



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

Wednesday

I enjoyed reading this week's articles, especially Gilmore's elaborate tale of Machismo in Seville, Spain. In regards to the overzealous efforts made by these men in Spain, I'd like to point out another kind of macho in another area of gender. Flamboyancy! Gilmore uses the 3 V's in his article to depict Virility, Virtue and Valor. With the aspect of being flamboyant, I'd like to use Ferocity.

Consider the possibility that the behavior you see is what you get when that particular man stops trying to imitate the kind of man he is not. In this aspect, the person has released inhibitions and is comfortable with who they are and lives it to the fullest.

Defined: (of a person or their behavior) tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness. (Oxford)

When perusing around the bar or open area, one can spot a flamboyant as they advertise the loudest. Like Machismo, this is more evident the more people are around and gets quieter if the person is not in a public space. The gender associated with this term is a homosexual male and as I have noticed, with many female friends. The culture is of a urbanized gay community. The role of the flamboyant is to lean towards having more female friends than male, but attracted to male. This is reinforced through what seems like who is the most refined, proper and graceful character of the room and gets even more reinforced through subtle competition among other flamboyant persons. The practices seen are those of advertisement and exposing that without a doubt, they are gay. In their gender construct, this is agreeable as it provides novelty to the culture and more charisma to the scene. The version of gender makes sense to them as it provides boundaries in which a spectrum of expose can be drawn from. Ranging from quiet, subtle to loud and grandiose fanfare. The advantages are simple, letting it be known for more attention and dates. A flamboyant typically has more than enough confidence to assert beliefs among a group, thus steering the group down a system of hierarchical understanding.

Compared to my own culture of a married woman, the advantage is that they are fun to be around and usually say what we would like to say without repercussion. This disadvantage is simple, we are frowned upon for acting like this in our own gender construct. Being so outspoken and blatant about many issues would be frowned upon.

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Arisa Melidonis



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

8:04am

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regards to what colors he can wear and how exuberant he can be. Is this about liberation from gender role as much as it is about sexuality?

Arion

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Kaitlyn Mirasak



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

Yesterday

Western culture constructs gender at birth, pretty much. Baby clothes are usually gender specific with darker colors for boys and bright colors for girls. Typically clothes for boys have sports, cars, dinosaurs and words to encourage adventure. Meanwhile, clothes for girls have mythical creatures like unicorns or mermaids. Shirts for girls often have words like "hey" or "LOL", nothing very encouraging. Western culture generally encourage boys to do as they please, to play sports, and to be providers. Girls tend to learn about make up and cooking. They are encouraged to get married and become domesticated mothers. Culturally males dominate the workforce. While women do work, there is a pay gap where women make less than their male counterparts. Women often do not hold positions in power either. Typically the way a person is raised is passed on to their offspring until one day someone realizes things have got to change.

There are disadvantages to Western cultures because the majority of people encourage gender specifics. Biological males should like things for boys and should grow up to be providers whereas biological females should better themselves in order to obtain a husband, bare children, and be the caregiver.

Most people in western cultures do not encourage individuality. These ideas make sense to people because it is what they were raised to believe.

For generations males have dominated the workforce and have been thought to have more power. Thus far, women still have significantly less power despite the fight for equality.

I do not believe in western cultures constructs of gender. I tend not to buy gender specific clothing for my children. The items I purchase for my girls tend to encourage adventure and empowerment, not garbage statements with no purpose. I always compliment my children and tell them they can change the world if they believe in something enough. I allow them to play with whatever toys they wish to. My girls love to play with cars and snakes. They like old video games, especially Mario Bros. I encourage them to be who they want and like the things they like without criticizing it for not being the norm for girls. I do not try to force them to watch princesses when they would rather watch TMNT or superheroes.

Western culture's ideologies just do not seem relevant in modern society. In the words of Bob Dylan, "the times they are a-changing".

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Arion Melidopoulos



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7:58am

Great job Kaitlyn,

Your post raises a very interesting question for us to consider. Is it necessary for a culture to have gender identity at all? Division of labor based on gender has been utilized by many cultures but perhaps our plural culture that emphasizes equality does not need this distinction? Alternatively, perhaps it is impossible to get rid of gender completely and what we are seeing is a re-framing of our gender identity to make it more inclusive and to allow for more freedom? What do you think?

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

Sonia Tapia

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

Yesterday

The gender roles that I've actually experienced and seen myself is the differences between men and women in a house hold. The gender role towards a women encourages her to have food ready, house clean, baby's taken care of, etc. As for the gender role for men, it encourages them to wake up early, go to work, bring money home, outside duties, etc. It reinforces them to practice the work that culturally men and women are supposed to do based on each gender. Their gender roles relate to their culture values because in my culture (Mexican culture) men are the head of the house and all the labor work and hard work has to be done only by men. For example, women can't step up help to fix a car or change a tire. That's the job titled only for men. That's their culture value that's been carried from generation to generation which is why it's been carried for so long and much hasn't changed. Most men practice hard work and women practice the simple part of a house hold. Cleaning, cooking, washing, and so on. I don't agree with the construction of the way my culture sees gender. I don't agree because it doesn't give equal value to both genders. Why can't I change a tire when it's not so difficult to do so? Why does it have to be only a man job? Or why can't a man take care of the child while the mom cooks? Instead the women hold the child and cooks while the man watches tv. Is that even labeled as fair to most people? It sounds absurd but it's practiced everywhere! The version of gender seems to make more sense to them because it has been carried on to them that that's the right thing to do and continue to pas on to more generations. That's why it hasn't changed. Hispanics tend t marry hispanics and so on with each race. They marry the people that have the same common values and that's why cultures don't change because they have everyone telling them how the tradition of culture has to be carried on. There's some advantages that may be good for some people but not all. For example, some women will be housewives and won't have to work or deal with work related troubles! That's already an advantage to most people because they simply don't have to work and they can just stay home being mothers to their children. Disadvantage would be the men working and doing all the hard work that's only up to them to do and finish. Overall all cultures are different and people will see plenty of advantages and disadvantages compared to different cultures.

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Anthony Napon

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Yesterday

I identify myself as a gay boy that means that I'm a young looking Gay man. Within my culture there are several different gender Identities. To us we believe that that we are just that it's who we are there is nothing that we can do to change that. There are a lot within this culture that believe that we should embrace who we are as individuals The Lady Gaga song "Born This Way" has become the theme song for many of us. I myself believe that God made me this way and that he accepts me for who I am. I'm sorry I've gotten a little ahead of myself I'm very passionate about this subject for many reasons. Within my culture there are many different gender Identities such as Transgendered, Gayboys, Tops, Bottoms, Bi, etc. It's the same for the women. Today we see many young boys and girls that are coming out as either gay, bi, or transgendered within today's society people are becoming more and more excepting of individuals who come out as being Gay and Bi-sexual. The same is not said for those who come out as transgendered: people will often intimidate not only the individual but also their family. I myself for a long time didn't understand why these individuals wanted to be like that I thought that if you're a male then be a male same with the women. It did not occur to me that this person could be going through the same issues that I myself was or had gone through. That was until I watched a show about this little black boy who wanted to be a princess. I never got to see the first time when he was on the show but caught the second time when he was older. I thought let's see what this Kid has to say about himself so I listened and I listened until I myself began to cry It was then that I realized that this Kid was me there was no difference.

As I said before, we are who we are we cannot change that any more than a heterosexual can change what they are.

When I was growing Up and being raised in a Christian family I grew to hate who and what I was I couldn't except it to the point where I attempted suicide. There are many youth who are still going through these same problems and fill that their only outlet is in death. Many

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This ability

allowed us to develop a confidence and certain strength with in us that and also those who fought for are right as individuals we believe in ourselves and we are proud of it.

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<https://vcccd.instructure.com/about/15476>  
Robert Johnson (<https://vcccd.instructure.com/about/15476>)



12:32pm

For this discussion, I'm going to talk about women and their role within society as I saw it growing up and the stories my mother told me about her mother who during her time when women stayed home and took care of the house hold and children she was out working. My mother was raised to be an independent women because both of her parents hade jobs it was strange for a lot of my mother's friend to find out the her mother worked but to my mother it was normal for as long as she could remember her mother had worked. So when my mother grew up she went to college and worked for a degree in education and became a teacher, she could have chosen any other degree but my mother is a very Kind and loving person and has loved her job she is now retired and raising/teaching (home schooling) my nephew

During my Grandmothers time, it was the women's place to stay home and take care of the family. This was highly encouraged for women to fulfill this role. I've met several women that were more intelligent than some men, and better qualified for promotions that they didn't get. This is shameful I'm very proud of my mom and the fact that she is very independent and I believe that is why my father fell in love with her and is still in love with her today. I would like to see more women be given the due that they have earned and worked so hard for.

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