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The overlapping characteristics of race, class, gender, and many more causes an intersection of structural privilege and oppression. While social groups may share a common identity, the individuals within these groups also have multiple other identities with which they identify. A person's self identity is created through many aspects, and these identities can overlap with each other and create both advantages and disadvantages. The concept of intersectionality allows us to comprehend how an individual's social and political identities intersect, leading to the formation of interconnected systems of discrimination and privilege. Within groups of people with shared identities, there are many other defining aspects of someone's personal identity. Intersectionality is critical to understanding structural injustice as it involves both the affected individuals and issues.

In "Mapping the Margins", by Crenshaw, she discusses the various forms of oppression experienced by women of color, who often face discrimination and marginalization due to the intersection of their identities. This intersectionality allows institutions of power to categorize them according to their gender or race as it benefits them, historically leading to women of color's experiences being ignored or dismissed because institutions only recognized them as either a race or gender issue, rather than acknowledging the intersectionality of their identities. In class, we talked about the Degraffenreid vs. General Motors case, where a group of black women sues GM for race and sex discrimination during the hiring process. The court was unable to

recognize the intersecting discrimination to these women because of their race and gender. The court argued that they have historically hired both white women and black men which would debunk their argument. However, this labels the women separately, as women, and as people of color. This disregards the specific challenges that they face being both a woman and being black. The court failed to understand the importance of recognizing black women as a distinct group deserving legal protection. If we acknowledge the intersectional oppression faced by black women and others, progress could be made on a variety of social justice issues. Failure to recognize the interconnectedness of different forms of discrimination leads to incomplete solutions to these problems.

Minority groups face numerous forms of oppression. Each minority group has their own unique problems. In many cases, people identify themselves with multiple minority groups which piles on to the discrimination they already face. This form of political intersectionality results in the prioritization of certain social groups over others, leading to the neglect of the needs of specific members who identify with multiple groups. A common issue with intersectionality when fighting against injustices is helping all groups involved and not just one piece of the issue. We see this a lot among groups who are fighting for their rights but not recognizing their diversity. For example, the case of the Black Lives Matter and the Feminist movements. There is a massive community of black women who identify in both these movements. However, they are not represented completely by these movements. It is important that both groups are able to recognize the presence of the third group and acknowledge the interconnectedness of their respective agendas. If we consider this, the movements can better represent these women. This is critical to the theory of intersectionality because it acknowledges that individuals may experience multiple forms of oppression simultaneously, and therefore,

when analyzing social justice issues, we must consider the complexity of people's identities and experiences rather than reducing them to a single identity or social group.

Our current structures of discrimination create difficult situations for people identifying in multiple oppressed groups. The purpose of these structures is to classify people into one social group, in order to deny them their rights. Because they fail to recognize the intersectionality of a person's identity, the needs of these people are not met. Intersectionality is critical to acknowledge when considering social justice problems. To achieve genuine progress on social justice issues, it's important to recognize that they often involve multiple groups and intersecting factors. Focusing exclusively on one group's concerns or ignoring the interconnectedness of different forms of oppression can lead to inadequate solutions.