
(Still) A Social Commentary on Inherited Identity—The Lies That Bind by Kwame Appiah

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Appiah discusses the concept of a reinforcing loop in the formation of classifications within social groups based on perceived identities. One such aspect of identity is the habitus, which refers to a set of unconscious rules that shape our responses to the world. These rules can be passed down through our families and influence the decisions we make, helping to further define and integrate us into the social groups we were born into. For example, table manners, such as not talking with food in our mouths, are a part of the habitus and can vary across

cultures. In the Philippines, it is common to eat with one's hands when consuming barbecue, while in Western countries, using utensils such as spoons and forks is more prevalent. Another example of social group classification based on identity is gender norms, which can be seen in the way mainstream media and tradition influence our choices in clothing. While living in a particular country or environment may also play a role in shaping our identity, the people we grow up with and their adherence to tradition can also have a strong influence on our sense of self.

By [Carl Kho](#) on [December 26, 2022](#).

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