



AS DESCRIBED ACHIEVED NOMINAL
GRADUATED



ascribed

- **Achieved**



graduated

nominal

ASCRIBED, ACHIEVED, NOMINAL, AND GRADUATED CHARACTERISTICS

- Massey identifies sex and other characteristics assigned at birth—age, skin color, nationality—as **ascribed** characteristics.
- **Achieved** characteristics, on the other hand, refer to those we accrue over time, such as educational or professional titles or membership in certain organizations.
- A further distinction can be made between **nominal** and **graduated** characteristics: those that are, in essence, fixed (graduate of X university) or on a continuum (lower, middle, and upper class).

HISTORY OF STRATIFICATION IN HUMAN HISTORY

