

I'm mostly interested in the power shift (culture and individual level) embedded in the work of gender categorization. I think gender identities are social constructions, and they are intrinsically dependent on social incentives and political projects, as opposed to being discovered in an ideal "state of nature". In this case, I think "people socialize themselves to the attributes of the category" is gender empowerment and self liberty for the minority who didn't have a community in the existed outdated gender categorization. It's important to acknowledge that people's self-identification journey is continually in motion, and as complicated creatures, we are creating new mixes of identities that are lacking categories as time progress. Bowker and Star mentioned "the practice of inscribing cultural categories on personal identification documents can clearly affect an individual's own sense of identity." (Kertzer and Arel. *Censuses, Identity Formation, and the Struggle for Political Power*, 2002. Page 5) Like the child abuser and marijuana user examples, media representations and conversations society is having about gender/sexuality categorizations encourage people to have open conversations about their individuality instead of blurring social categories to fit in the existing social regime.

The development of gender categorization is a contested site of great political significance. Take census as an example, we have to acknowledge the political significance embedded in this process of stats' attempt to make society categories legible. Just as Kertzer and Arel mentioned that "the census does much more than simply reflect social reality; rather, it plays a key role in the construction of that reality." (Kertzer and Arel, Page 2) In that sense, I believe the classification of gender becomes a political move in the attempts to establish power on institutional and historical levels. And it further incentivizes and gives power to the people to socialize themselves to such categories.