

Week 10

Martin Fracker Section 905

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Notes

Social and Cultural Construction

- Idea, belief, or concept people have created, and they organize their actions and thoughts around it
- Things that could not have existed without culture and society
- Each of them could have been constructed differently, by different people in a different culture in a different time and space
- **natural and obvious** to people who accept it
- Change over time
- Influenced by political and economic influences
- Apparently the notion of unconditional maternal love can be culturally deconstructed
 - Maybe some cultures develop a numbness to child death to cope with harsh living conditions or as an excuse to lessen the burden of child rearing. With such a high still-born rate, I would guess the first one.
 - In the reading, women found it dangerous to decide to love a child. It might break your heart and die, or in their eyes it never wanted to live in the first place.
 - With how many baby deaths these kinds of towns experience, they don't mark the graves of the deceased babies. Maybe it would be too much for the mothers to consciously keep track of all the ones they lost.
 - Selective childhood neglect is common in societies characterized by high childhood mortality
- I think maternal love is innate. But when circumstances are so dire that child death is anticipated, expected even, it might be easy to eventually become numb to it and become less attached to those babies which look like they have the slightest chance of not making it in hopes of protecting oneself mentally from the mental storms brought on by frequent child death.

Examples

- Paper money: extrinsic value culturally constructed
- Lines drawn on map: treaties, laws, ownerships of land
- Football
- Breakfast: not every culture has the same cultural construction for breakfast, this can be extended to every other meal