



# **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**Soc 1101: Summer 2023**

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# Gender

## Lecture 10

# TODAY'S LECTURE OUTLINE

- **Gender and sex**
  - **The social construction of gender & sex**
  - **Gender role socialization**
- **Gender gap in pay**
- **Ideologies of gender in science**
- **Next lecture: Sex and sexuality**

# DEFINING SEX AND GENDER

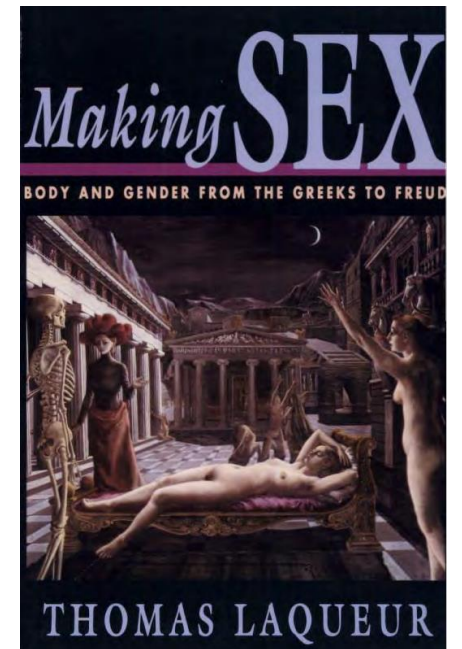
- **SEX:** Socially believed biological differences that distinguish males from females (e.g., penis and vagina)
- **GENDER:** set of social arrangements and expectations that are built around normative sex categories (e.g., views on what is “masculine” and “feminine”)

**Gender and sex are both socially constructed!**



# GENDER AS A MORE FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURE THAN SEX!

- **One-sex vs two-sex models in European history**
  - **Women's vagina as inverted, compromised, penis until about 18<sup>th</sup> century**
  - **Gender ideology as the basis of "seeing" in anatomy**
  - **Always two genders forming a clear hierarchy**



# **Sociologists' forte: the becoming of men and women after the designation of sex at birth**

**“One is not born a woman but rather becomes one” – de Beauvoir, 1949, *The Second Sex***

# THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

- **Gender Roles**
  - **Sets of behavioral norms assumed to accompany one's status as male or female**
    - **E.g., men: strong; women: sensitive**
- **Gender Role Socialization**
  - **Learning of male- and female-typed roles and practices via agents of socialization (e.g. family, schooling and the media)**



BBC





# WHAT MAKES A 'GOOD' MAN OR WOMAN?



A vintage ad, *Huffington Post*  
1936



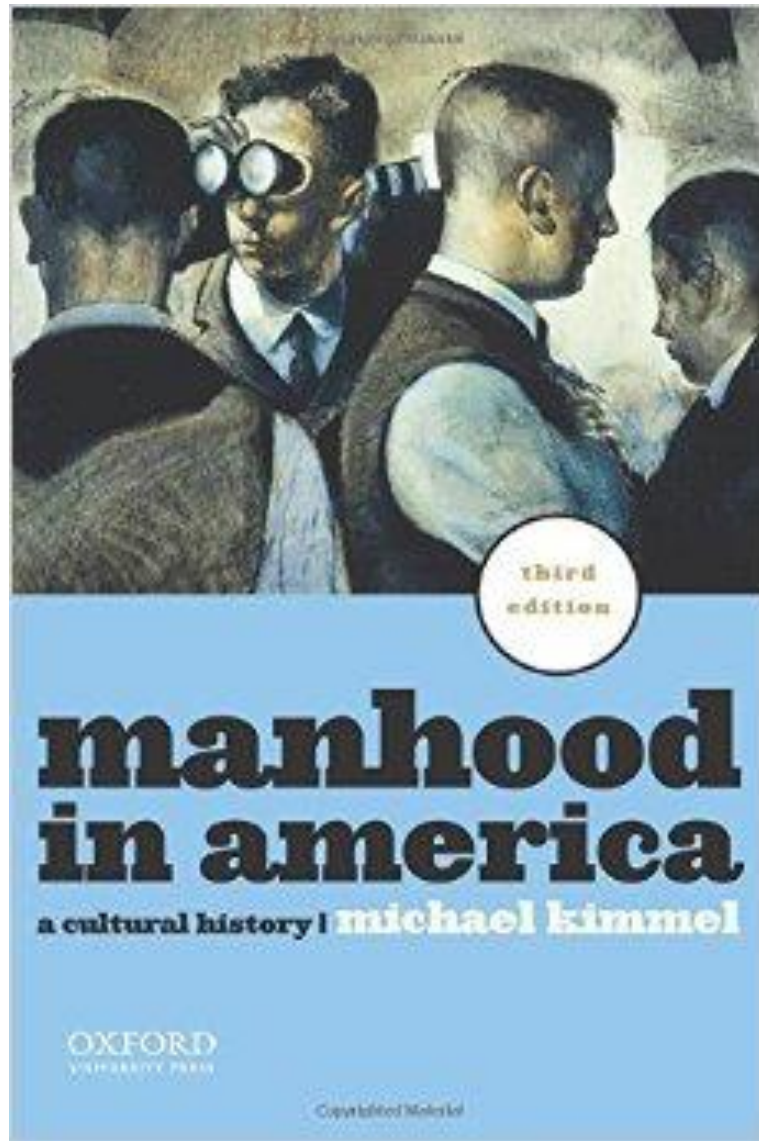
A Gap tweet from 2014

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/29/beauty-industry-women\\_n\\_5127078.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/29/beauty-industry-women_n_5127078.html)



[\(1\) Young girls force-fed for marriage in Mauritania | Unreported World - YouTube](#)





Today masculinity is associated with physical strength, sports, and money-making endeavors.

In 1700s masculinity went hand in hand with kindness and intellect, and even a little poetry!

# K-POP STAR IN KOREA TODAY



# **“DOING GENDER”**

- **Gender is more than learning to act like a man or a woman**
- **It is something we continually ‘do’ in our daily interactions**
- **Gender is not a fixed identity; it is the product of social interactions**
- **Gender is a matter of active doing, not a matter of natural being**
- **Lecture examples: bathrooms; courtship & romance: “he’s just not that into you”; gender and race as master identities**

Source: West and Zimmerman, 1987, “Doing Gender,” *Gender and Society*



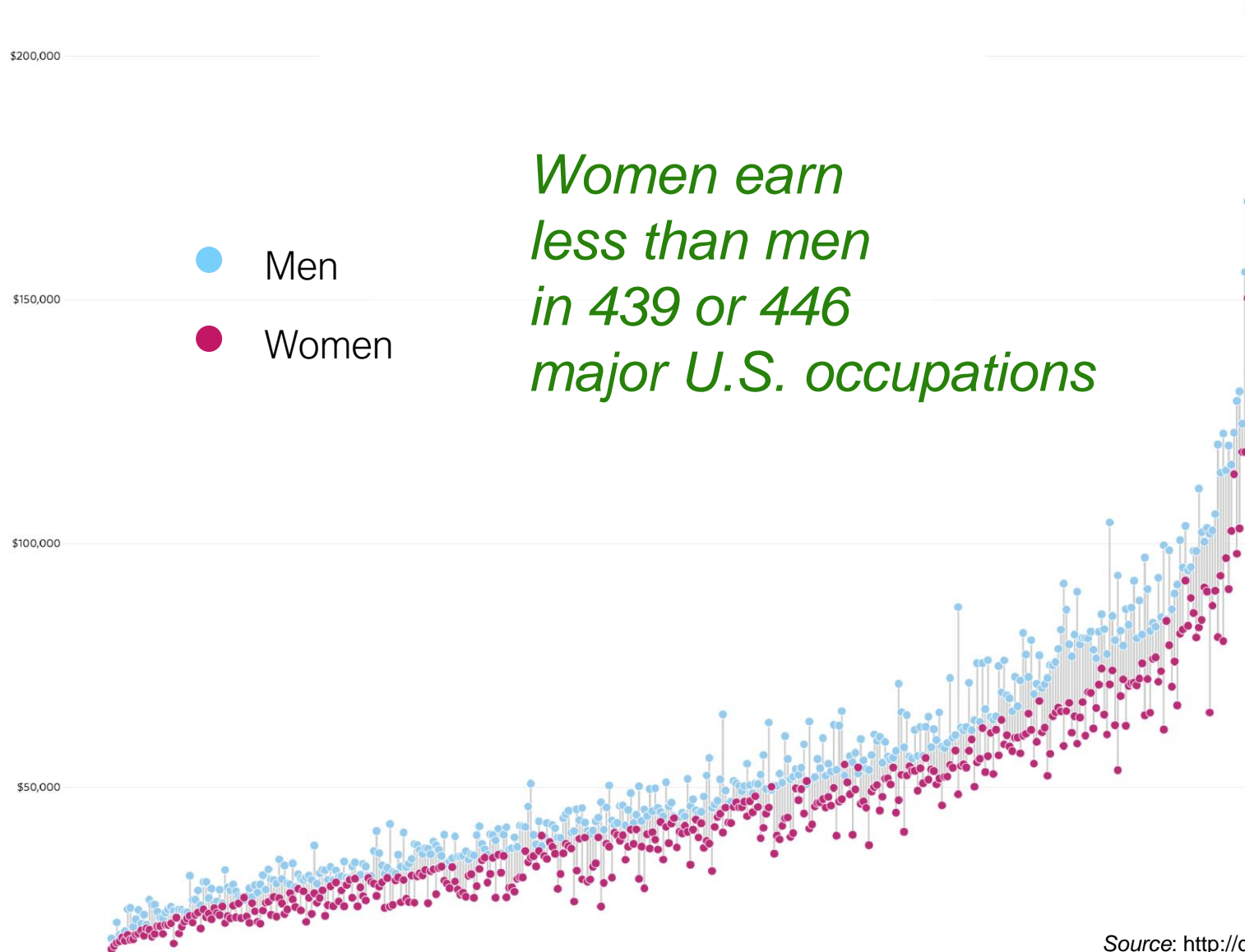
# GENDER AS PERFORMANCE

- Gender as **performance** undertaken by men and women
- Embedded in everyday interactions; carried out in the presence of others who are presumed to understand the cues
- Gender performance casts socially guided interactions as 'natural'
- ....and legitimates a fundamental division in society

# ENGLAND 2010

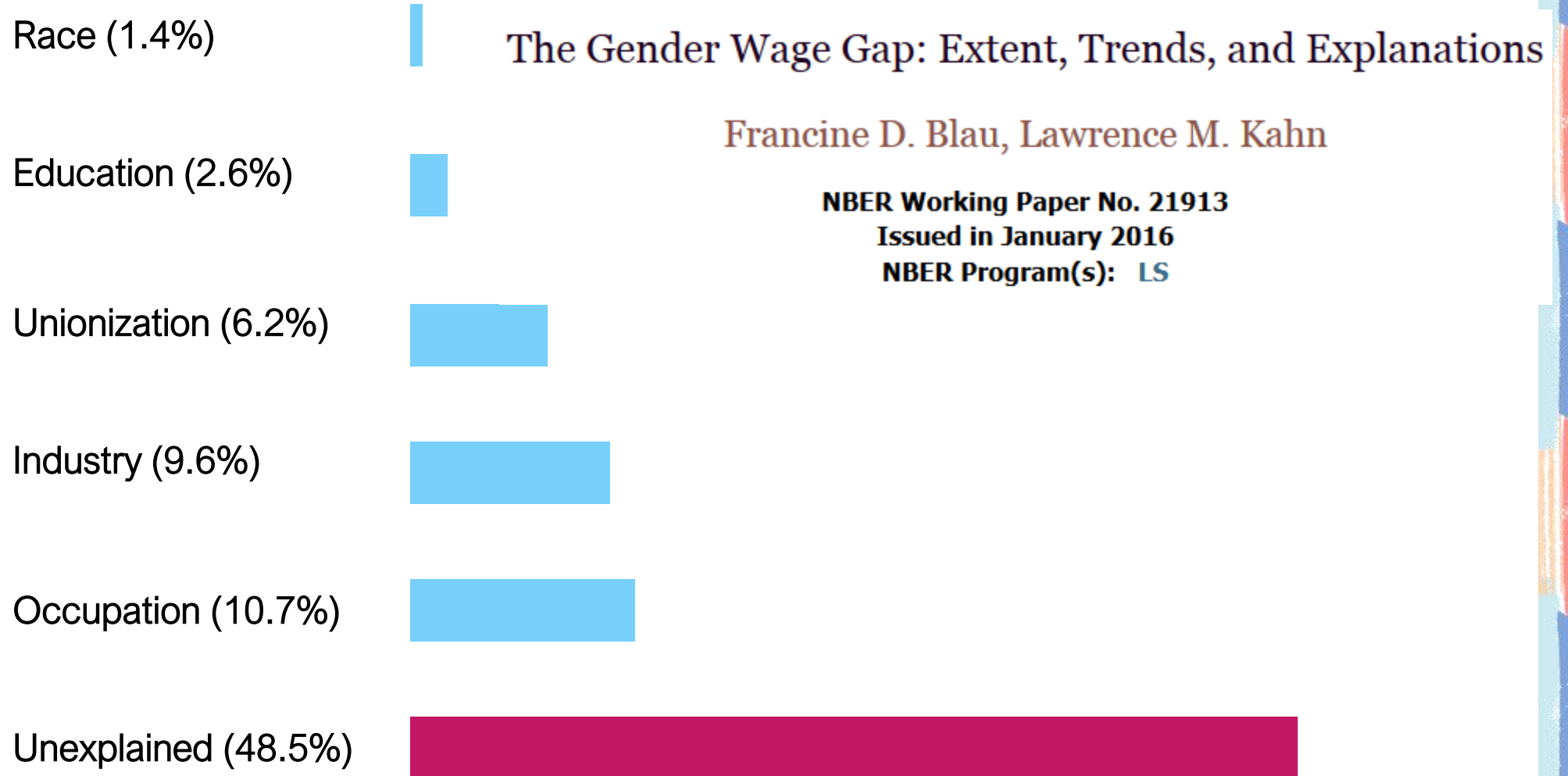
- **Why has there been progress in gender equality in some areas of life, but not others?**
  - **The continued devaluation of female activities and female-types jobs**
  - **Asymmetric incentives to cross gender barriers**
  - **The personal realm**
  - **Professional vs blue-collar gender integration**

# THE GENDER PAY GAP



Source: <http://graphics.wsj.com/gender-pay-gap/>

# FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENDER WAGE GAP



Source: Blau and Kahn 2016 (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w21913>)

# MARTIN 1991

- **How stereotypes/cultural beliefs about gender shape biological knowledge production about eggs & sperms**
- **"Produce ", "manufacture", "hundreds of millions of sperm each day"**
- **"shedding", "dying", "debris" (menses); "merely sit on the shelf, slowly degenerating and aging like overstocked inventory" (ovulation)**
- **"Penetration", "travel" of the sperm, despite new research on the weakness of sperms, the strong adhesive force of the eggs...**



# NEXT CLASS

- **Sex and sexuality**
- **Readings**
  - **Pascoe 2005**
    - **“Dude, You’re a Fag’: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse”**