

**Gender studies** is a [field](#) for [interdisciplinary](#) study devoted to [gender identity](#) and [gendered representation](#) as central categories of analysis. This field includes [women's studies](#) (concerning [women](#), [feminism](#), gender, and politics), [men's studies](#) and [queer studies](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Sometimes, gender studies is offered together with study of [sexuality](#).

These disciplines study [gender](#) and [sexuality](#) in the fields of [literature](#), [language](#), [geography](#), [history](#), [political science](#), [sociology](#), [anthropology](#), [cinema](#), [media studies](#),<sup>[2]</sup> [human development](#), [law](#), and [medicine](#).<sup>[3]</sup> It also analyzes how [race](#), [ethnicity](#), [location](#), [class](#), [nationality](#), and [disability](#) intersect with the categories of gender and [sexuality](#).<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Regarding gender, [Simone de Beauvoir](#) said: "One is not born a woman, one becomes one."<sup>[6]</sup> This view proposes that in gender studies, the term "gender" should be used to refer to the [social and cultural constructions](#) of masculinities and femininities and not to the state of being male or female in its entirety.<sup>[7]</sup> However, this view is not held by all gender theorists. Beauvoir's is a view that many sociologists support (see [Sociology of gender](#)), though there are many other contributors to the field of gender studies with different backgrounds and opposing views, such as psychoanalyst [Jacques Lacan](#) and feminists such as [Judith Butler](#).