

1 Gender 101

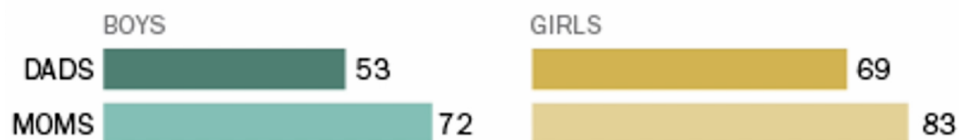
1.1 What is Gender?

- Gender is culturally constructed and historically informed
- Gender is learned - culturally transmitted
- Concepts of gender differ cross-culturally
- Concepts of gender are contested within/across cultures
- Gender roles are socialized from an early age

1.2 Babies and Gender

- Gender stereotyping begins as early as 3 months old
- Parents may respond to crying children differently depending on assumed (from external genitalia) gender
- These discrepancies can have a profound impact on neurological development and can leave traces on genes
- Fathers found to see less value in letting children participate in activities typically associated with the 'other' gender
 - Indicates boys are taught to be more restrictive in the toys they play with and the activities they partake in than girls are

% of dads/moms saying it is a very/somewhat good thing for parents to encourage young boys /girls to play with toys or participate in activities typically associated with the opposite gender



1.3 Gendered Clothing

- Skirts vs. Pants
 - Differs across cultures
 - Differs within a single culture across time
- The great switch of 1920's
 - Gendered clothing was invented by marketers/manufacturers in the 1920's to make people want to buy more clothes for different gendered children

1.4 Gendered Speech

- Study on communication within a business meeting

- Women speaking 50% of the time: *BOTH* men and women perceived women to dominate the conversation
- Women speaking 30% of the time: *BOTH* men and women perceived women to be equally participating

1.5 Gender and Power

- *Patriarchy* - a system of societal and institutional organization that privileges men and masculinity
- *Sexism* - prejudice and/or discrimination against someone on the basis of gender
 - Reverse sexism does *not* exist (in the United States)
 - Patriarchy is inherently a system of power
 - Women and femininity is devalued
 - Thus, sexism can only occur to the devalued group

1.6 Gender Identity

- How we feel and see ourselves and how we want others to see us
- Difficult to develop gender identity that exists outside of the confines of the ideologies and terminologies of the society you exist in

1.7 Gender Performance

- How we express or 'do' gender
- Performance \neq fake
- Performance refers to individual outward expression

1.8 Gender Embodiment

- Routine repetitious actions become embedded within us
- Becomes 'naturalized' or performed unconsciously

1.9 Gender Ideals/Stereotypes

- Concepts of gender most often represent cultural ideals rather than reality or how people actually behave
- Gender is constantly (re)produced and contested

1.10 Intersectionality

- Interlocking systems of power that account for the multiple social positions we occupy
- *Cannot* discuss gender without talking about other oppressive categories such as
 - Nationality
 - Race

- Ability
- Sexual Orientation
- Class
- Ex: “Second Wave Feminist Movement”
 - Called a feminist movement but was strictly for upper class straight white women with U.S. citizenship
 - The subset of women above wanted to abolish the idea that working outside of the home was strictly for men
 - Lower class/immigrant women had already been working outside of their homes in order to make enough money for their household, taking jobs in other peoples homes or in factories

1.11 Third Genders

- Native American – Two Spirit
- Samoan – Fa’afafine
- South Asian – Hijra