

## 11 Gender 101 2

### 11.1 Gender is...

- A system of categories and associations
  - Mental Maps of Reality
- Subject Positions we create, occupy, and contest
  - Like 'hijra', 'woman', or 'man'
  - Intersects with other subject positions like age, race, religion, etc.
- Identities we craft dialectically with Subject Positions
  - Is complex and can change over time
  - Performed
  - Embodied
    - \* "Manspreading" is a learned posture for men rather than one facilitated by actual physiological differences
    - \* Women expected to maintain 'feminine' posture depending on race, class, etc.
  - i.e. Infants treated differently by parents based on perceived gender
    - \* Time to respond to babies cries differ; longer for boys than girls
    - \* Due to perceived sense of men being supposed to manage emotions on their own
    - \* Not intentional from parents
- A System of Power
  - Patriarchy
    - \* "Masculinity" treated as ideal
    - \* Women, minorities disproportionately affected by standards/expectations
    - \* Boys subject to "psychological violence" to condition them towards certain idealized standards of masculinity
      - Posited that this psychological violence is a prerequisite to widespread sexual/physical violence towards women

### 11.2 Gender and Hegemony

- *Hegemony* - Cultural and ideological influence over a population exerted by dominant and powerful groups within and across societies
  - Ex: Common perception that patriarchy stems from a power dynamic influenced by physical strength, yet the majority of modern power dynamics have nothing to do with physical strength