

1 Gender 101 2

1.1 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

1.2 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