

# ANTH 230: Gender Across Cultures

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## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 The Four Fields of Anthropology

- Cultural Anthropology
  - Study of contemporary humans/human societies
- Linguistic Anthropology
  - Study of language and communication
- Archaeology
  - Study of past human societies; deep time
- Physical/Biological Anthropology
  - Study of human biology and evolution

### 2.2 Holistic Approach to Humanity

- Pre/Historical
- Biological
- Social
- Language

### 2.3 When did Anthropology Begin?

- Formalized in 1800s
- Distinct from sociology
  - Who did it study?
    - \* Sociologists studied 'Western complex societies'
    - \* Anthropologists studied 'the exotic other'
  - How was it studied?
    - \* Sociologists tended to use quantitative data
    - \* Anthropologists used qualitative data

### 2.4 Handmaiden to Colonialism

- Anthropologists originally employed to make colonialism easier
- Realized quickly how much colonialism was destroying cultures
- Became advocates for the people they studied

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## 6 Biological Sex

### 6.1 The 5 Markers of Biological Sex

Typically 5 markers used to determine sex

- Chromosomes
- Hormones
- Inner genitalia
- Outer genitalia
- Secondary sexual characteristics

### 6.2 Sex Development

- Chromosomes
  - XY (typically male)
  - XX (typically female)
- All embryos begin with indistinguishable sex and have potential to become a variety of sexes
- Fetus starts to form sexual characteristics around age 5-7 weeks

### 6.3 Chromosomal Variance

- Not all chromosomal compositions are XX or XY
- Over 70 chromosomal combinations documented
- Roughly 1 in every 426 humans have a chromosomal makeup that does not conform to XX/XY binary
  - Statistically ~125 students at Purdue
  - Likely higher than 1/426 odds; not many people get their chromosomes tested
- Examples:
  - XXY or XXXY (Klinefelter's Syndrome)
  - XO (Turner's Syndrome)

### 6.4 Hormones

- Glands secrete combination of the hormones testosterone, estrogen, and progesterone
- 2 essential washing of hormones - in utero and at puberty
- Different combinations = different effects on the body
- Interaction between chromosomes and hormones determined development of physical body
- Variety of physically diverse bodies

## 6.5 Hormones and the Life Course

- Hormone production varies over the life course
- Endocrine system influences body and brain functioning
- Influenced by external factors
  - Environment
  - Diet
  - Social roles

## 6.6 Chromosomes + Hormones

Chromosomes and hormones encourage the development of primary and secondary sexual characteristics

- Primary (M): testes, penis, scrotum, prostate,
- Primary (F): ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, vagina
- Secondary (F): breast development, wider hips, higher body fat (esp. in hips, thighs, butt)
- Secondary (M): deepening of voice, broader shoulders, increased muscle mass, growth of body hair

## 6.7 Transgressive Bodies

- Roughly 2% of the population is non-binary
- Medicalization of the body leads normative assumptions about the body and categorizes some as 'normal' and others as 'abnormal'
- Frequently we 'correct' bodies that do not fit the binary
  - Infanticide
  - Murder
  - Sexual assignment surgery
  - Hormone Therapy
    - \* Over assignment to female
    - \* "Easier to dig a hole than to build a hole"

# 7 Biological Sex 2

## 7.1 Mental Maps of Reality

- How we categorize the world around us
- How we assign value to different categories

## 7.2 Categories and Dualisms

- In order to understand and make sense of the world, we create categories
- By definition these are exclusionary and reductive, and thus rarely represent 'reality'
- Categories often come in binaries and set in opposition to one another (dualisms)
  - Nature/Culture
  - Sex/Gender

- Homo/Hetero
- Mind/Body

### 7.3 Cultural Narratives of the Body

- Our cultural beliefs about similarities/differences influence how we see the body and understand sex

### 7.4 Sexing the Body

- Gender ideology - set of cultural ideas about the essential character of different genders
  - Sex and gender as binary
  - Sex and gender as synonymous
- Gender ideology shapes concepts of biological sex and how the body works
- Popular and medical notions of biological sex often reflect our cultural beliefs rather than reality
- Scientific terminology and medicalization change the way we culturally understand the body

### 7.5 The Egg and the Sperm

- Traditional notion of conception is based on stereotypical male-female gender roles

### 7.6 Biopower

- The processes by which regimes of authority produce knowledge on human life and the power these systems of knowledge have on social institutions and individual lives

## 8 Biological Sex 3

### 8.1 Gendered Physiological Discrimination

- Ewa Klobukowska
  - Polish sprinter; set multiple world records in the 1960s
  - "Failed a gender test" and was banned/stripped of all records
  - Gave birth to a son a year later
- Ordering and disciplining of bodies on hormones, chromosomes and other biological processes
- Explores this concept through 'Sex Verification Testing' in elite sports
- Example of Biopower

### 8.2 Sex, Gender, Race, and Imperialism

- Current International Olympic Committee rules:
  - 'Suspicion-Based Testing' vs 'Universal Testing'
  - DNA Chromosome Tests
  - Hormone Level Tests
- Types of people considered 'suspicious' are not treated equally
  - People identifying as women of color targeted almost exclusively

- Bodies targeted for sex suspicion and testing tend to come from marginalized or ‘othered’ populations

### 8.3 Intersectionality

- We are all a combination of various social identities and positions
  - Sexual orientation (Straight vs. LGBTQ+)
  - Culture (Western vs. non-Western)
  - Education (post-secondary vs. no formal education)
- These positionalities intersect to create unique social groups and experiences, including privileges/oppressions
- Ex: Gender (sexism) + race (racism) = “misogynoir”
  - Unique form of oppression experienced by female POCs

## 9 Participation activity

No new material; participation activity

## 10 Gender 101

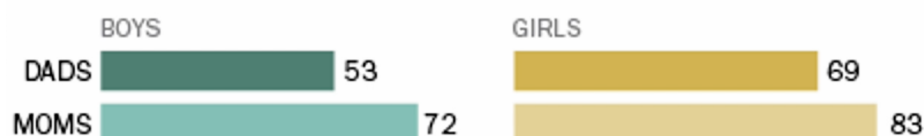
### 10.1 What is Gender?

- 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

### 10.2 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*



### 10.3 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

### 10.4 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

### 10.5 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

### 10.6 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

### 10.7 Gender Performance

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

### 10.8 Gender Embodiment

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



## 10.9 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

## 10.10 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

## 10.11 Third Genders

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

# 11 Gender 101 3

## 11.1 Gender and Hegemony

- Gendered Subject Personalities - Subject positions often offer multiple ‘ways of being’ within each category
  - Ex: masculinities
- Each subject positionality will be ranked (and valued) based on its adherence to the hegemonic (dominant/privileged) notion of that gender (Hegemonic Gender)
- Subject positionalities are typically ideals rather than representative of concrete real world dynamics
  - Often shape our mental maps of reality, whence shaping legal and otherwise concrete societal frameworks
- Individuals may occupy one subject position while exhibiting characteristics of another
  - Ex: ‘tomboy’, ‘dyke’, ‘queer’
- Hegemonic Gender intersect with Hegemonic Positionalities/Categories

## 11.2 Gender and Social Stratification

- Mental Maps of Reality overlap and create associations
- Sherry Ortner - "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?"
  - Females reproduce offspring and therefore produce 'naturally'
  - Males must produce 'artificially' (culturally)
  - Culture dominates Nature  $\implies$  Males (men) dominate Females (women)
- Critiques
  - Overlooks cultures with more than gender binaries
  - Utilizes a Western lens to assess 'power and agency'
  - Ignores the massive impact that European colonization had on restructuring cultural gender categories and ideologies

## 11.3 Gender and Kinship

- Kinship - A cultural system of defining who is related to whom and what obligations members of a kin network have to each other
- Kin groups/family - The most basic political, organizational, and economic (resource management) unit in society
- Patterns of Kinship influence social interactions, access to resources, and larger social organization and patterns

## 11.4 Descent and Lineage

- Systems of determining who is related to whom
- Unilineal
  - Matrilineal
  - Patrilineal
- Bilateral

## 12 lecture video

catch up when posted

## 13 Masculinities

### 13.1 Becoming a Woman

#### 13.1.1 Early anthropologists on Womanhood

- Relatively fewer 'rites of passage' for girls to become women
- Mostly associated with biological processes like menses (onset of menstruation) or giving birth (becoming a mother)
- Sometimes associated with related processes like marriage (becoming a wife)
- Femininity often associates with similar characteristics to childhood
  - Submissive, dependent, innocent, ignorant

- Thus, there is less pressure to distance oneself from childhood to establish adult womanhood

### 13.1.2 Contemporary anthropologists

- Recognize there is a variety of types of rites of passage for girls into womanhood that are not related to reproduction

## 13.2 Becoming a Man

- ‘Manhood’ like ‘Womanhood’ involves socially constructed concepts that demarcate transition from child to adult social roles
- Transition from boy to man often considered more challenging because there is a lack of significant biological events that would demonstrate ‘manhood’
- The construction of manhood and masculinity often involves a distancing from attributes considered feminine and/or associated with femininity
  - ‘Boys don’t cry’
  - ‘Be a man’

## 13.3 Rites of passage

- Ritualistic
- Guides change of status in society
- Overseen by elders (authority)
- Predetermined sequence of events

### 13.3.1 Three phases

- Separation
- Liminality
- Incorporation