

1 Gender 101 3

1.1 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

1.2 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

1.3 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

1.4 Descent and Lineage

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