

Rights Conflicts in Gender Studies

Should trans rights trump gay rights and women's rights?

Game Plan:

- What do we know or believe about Trans, Gay and Women's rights and possible conflicts between them? (Each of us!)
- Some background
- Further Discussion & should discussion be permitted?
- Academic/philosophical origins of contemporary activism

perceived rights clashes

- Radical trans activist doctrines:
 - gender self-identification suffices
 - trans women are women
 - gender dysphoria should be affirmed
 - both gender and sex are social constructs
- Areas of perceived conflict:
 - Hence: no “sex based rights” for biological women
 - “safe spaces” for women or children must admit trans women
 - Women’s sports must accept trans women
 - Gay anatomical sexual preferences are transphobic
 - Lesbians are disappearing!
- Child abuse?
 - Failure to properly inform before puberty blocking or transition
 - Question of consent by minors to poorly understood and ultimately ineffective transition therapies.
 - Propriety of accepting or encouraging “wrong body” perceptions

Some Activist Organisations

- **Stonewall** - originally a gay rights advocacy group, now LGBTQ+
 - “Acceptance without exception”
 - Gay/Lesbian sexual preferences/orientation considered “transphobic”
- **Mermaids** - provides support for trans children
- **LGB alliance** - maintains support for LGB against more radical trans activism
- **Womens Place UK** - supports *liberal* feminism rather than *intersectional*

From Postmodernism to Social Justice activism

1. Postmodern, Post-structural & Deconstructional philosophy (1966-89)
2. Applied Postmodernism (1980s,1990s)
 - A. postcolonial Theory
 - B. queer Theory
 - C. critical race Theory
 - D. intersectional feminism
 - E. disability studies
 - F. fat studies
3. combined *intersectional Social Justice scholarship and activism* (2010-)

CSJ fundamental connections

- The break begins with fundamentals: language, logic, epistemology
 - Probably this starts with Hegel's logic
- This fundamental divergence persists and widens:
 - postmodernism involves radical scepticism, about language and truth
 - after sceptical demolition (de-construction) a new dogmatic epistemology
 - the “lived experience” of oppressed identities (only) is true
 - also comprehensive re-interpretation of concepts is mandated (newspeak)
- Any cogent analysis of Critical Social Justice must address these fundamentals
- CSJ is also severely *irrational* in that it:
 - fails to clearly articulate the desired end (“social justice”)
 - proposes methods likely to exacerbate rather than reduce “social justice”

Lived Experiences & Standpoint Epistemology



Resources for
CRT Educators

- 1) Man is attacked by a shark.
- 2) Man concludes that shark attacks are extremely common.
- 3) You disagree. You present statistics alleging that shark attacks are rare.¹
- 4) You are denying the victim's Lived Experience.^{2,3}
- 5) You are wrong.⁴ Man's Lived Experience proves that shark attacks are extremely common.
- 6) Shut up & Listen! If you've never been attacked by a shark, you can't hold an opinion about shark attacks.⁵
- 7) I said Shut up & Listen, bigot!
- 8) End of discussion.



¹Statistics are a social construct of Whiteness and can be summarily dismissed.

²You also committed Epistemic Violence against the man.

³You also denied his humanity.

⁴This is Standpoint Epistemology. Yes, his lived experience of a single shark attack qualifies him to speak about the rarity of shark attacks. You are not qualified as you've never been the victim of a shark attack.

⁵If you were the victim of a shark attack and still believe that shark attacks are rare, you are suffering from False Consciousness. You are enacting non-shark-attackedness.