

INTERSECTIONALITY: THEORY AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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2023-07-16

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1 INTRODUCTION

Social Scientists have long studied the correlations between political attitudes at one side and, at the other, multiple dimensions, such as socioeconomical, psychological, ethnical, generational, as many other demographic and background factors.

Anti-racist and Feminist movements otherwise have brought attention to the fact that political discourse tends to frame social demands in unidimensional approaches. For instance, many media outlets, politicians and judicial authorities refer to groups of people either as Blacks or as Women, usually meaning Black Men or White Women – with little or no consideration for Black Women.

There is a lack of comprehension of the multidimensional complexity of individual identities, and the specificities of their social cross-affiliations, namely the intersectionality. Academia has somehow incorporated the debate, but often the approach to intersectionality in research is sufficed by the plain inclusion of race and gender into analysis - in similar ways that behaviorists had been doing before.

Critiques of this barrenly descriptive of gender and race strategy say it fades away the potential of intersectionality as a critical asset to expose oppression and power imbalance.

On the other hand, empiricists accuse intersectional craftswomen of lacking scientific rigor and systematic methodology. After introducing the term's origins, uses and concerns, this paper suggests a basis for a possible reconciliation of intersectionality's defenders and detractors.