

criticisms that the approach has received.

To do this, we will refer to Crenshaw's seminal writings in an effort to maintain proximity, if not the reliability of the concept operationalized in relation to the original precepts. It will possibly be an original contribution to the approach. Next, to guide the investigation of variables that may interact with each other, we resort to an analytical reframing of intersectionality.

The last two sections of the text will attempt to expand the intersectional approach toward formulating a comprehensive analytical model so that it can be applied to contexts other than U.S. gender and race relations. We hope to do so without emptying the critical capacity of the intersectional approach to privilege, and without losing its potential for challenging hierarchies.

As intersectionality is a critical approach, it does not depend on data input. Even so, we will try to derive empirically testable hypotheses from it, as we believe that this somewhat unusual encounter could result in an original contribution to Political Science, behavior analysis and inequality studies. The proposal of the theoretical model will conclude this work.

The background that permeates our discussion is the continued co-incidence ¹ of inequalities on certain groups and individuals. The general research problem is:

1. discover how intersectionalities act on groups and individuals, with what intensity they affect other variables at these two levels of analysis; and at the same time
2. develop a methodological guidance available for intersectional analyses, which adequately answers quantifiable research questions, and which paves the way for future developments.

2 INTERSECTIONALITY: origins and uses of a concept

Whether inspired by street intersections (intersect) or by evoking the concept of intersections from set theory, both connotations of intersectionality point to the fact that individual identities are not defined by attributes of just one dimension.

This is because we simultaneously belong to several different categories based on social class, gender, religion, educational level, age group and many other possible distinctions. Our trajectory and experiences as individuals are deeply marked by the advantages and disadvantages accumulated because of these multiple belongings.

In its conceptual origin, intersectionality is strongly linked to a problem of a historical and structural nature in contemporary democracies: inequality. Even though modern democracies were founded on ideals of equality between individuals, inequality