

DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE PART 2: A FOCUS ON... GENDER & SEXUALITY

CSTU5170 - Sociology for Social Practice:
Inequality and Social Change



Karakia | MANAWA MAI

Manawa mai te mauri nuku
Manawa mai te mauri rangi

Ko te mauri kai au

He mauri tipua

Ka pakaru mai te po

Tau mai te mauri

Haumi e, hui e, taiki e

Embrace the life force of the earth, embrace the
life force of the sky

The life force I have fathered is powerful, and
shatters all darkness

Come great life force,

Join it, gather it, it is done

waiata | Purea nei e te hau

○ Purea nei e te hau
Horoia e te ua
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Ma hea ake nga
Po raruraru
Makere ana nga here
E rere, wairua e rere
Ki nga ao o te rangi
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga
Po raruraru
Makere ana nga here

Purea nei e te hau
Horoia e te ua
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga poraruru
Makere ana nga here

E rere wairua e rere
Ki nga ao o te rangi
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga poraruru
Makere ana nga here
Makere ana nga here

https://youtu.be/PIHxXz4yJvM?si=P4cf_fUdpc6JxziX

AGENDA

Recap last week

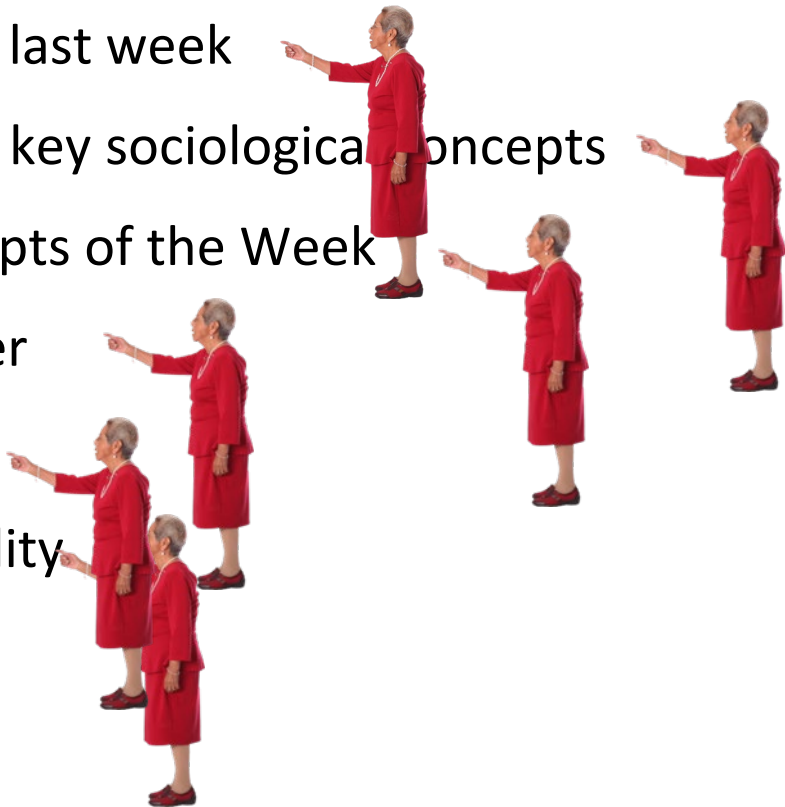
Recap key sociological concepts

Concepts of the Week

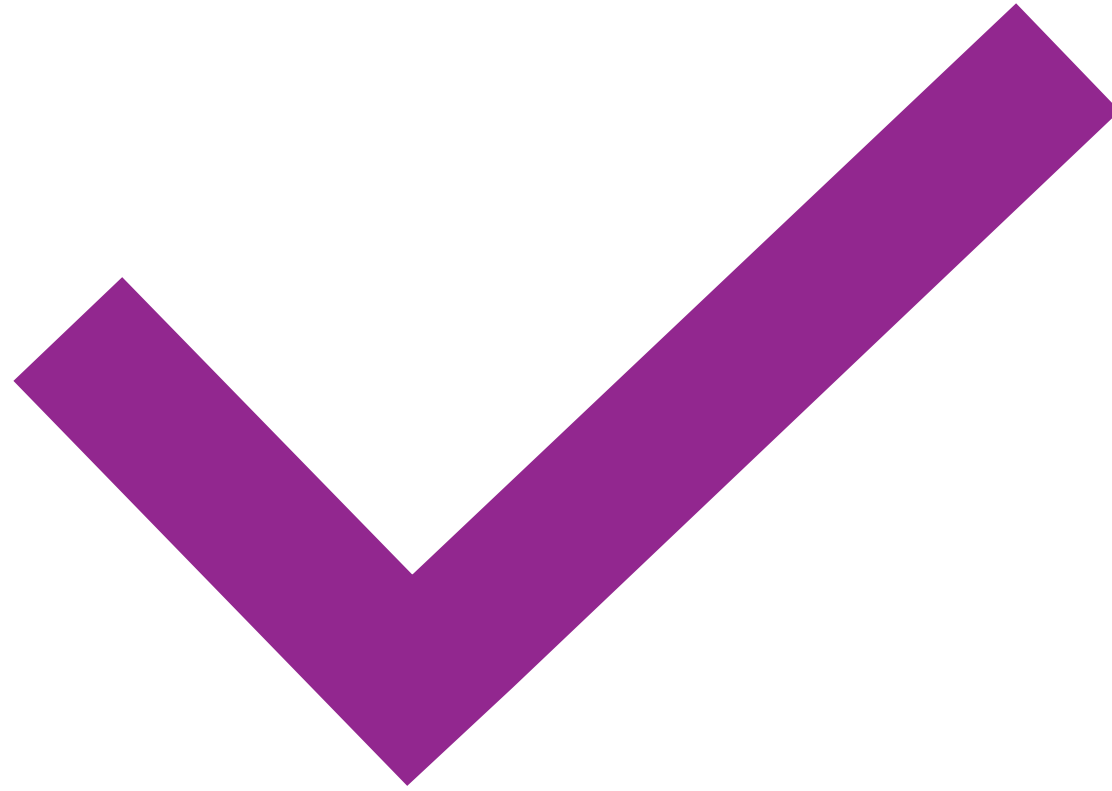
Gender

Lunch

Sexuality



RECAP LAST
WEEK



RECAP OF SOME KEY SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Norms | ■ The unspoken rules that shape our lived experiences |
| Normativity | ■ The expectations/assumptions that may come with certain norms. |
| Socialisation | ■ The process in which we learn norms |
| Ideologies | ■ Ideologies: A system, or combination of ideas that shape some aspect of our shared understanding of the world |
| Social structures | ■ social structures: are the patterned social arrangements in society that are both emerge from and shape of the actions of individuals. This includes social arrangements such as family, religion, law, economy, class, gender, ethnicity. |
| Stratification | ■ Stratification: Stratification means arranging something, or something that has been arranged, into categories. This tends to form a hierarchy with those stratified higher receiving more or greater access to social, political or economic power. |



CONCEPT(S) OF THE WEEK |

GENDER STRATIFICATION, PATRIARCHY, INTERSECTIONALITY

Gender stratification occurs when gender differences give men greater privilege and power over women, transgender and gender-non-conforming people.

Feminism focuses on the theory of **patriarchy** as a stratified system of power that organizes society into a complex of relationships based on the assertion of male supremacy.

Feminist theory uses the conflict approach to examine the reinforcement of gender roles and inequalities, highlighting the role of patriarchy in maintaining the oppression or marginalisation of women.

Intersectionality suggests that various forms of oppression— such as racism, classism, and sexism— are interrelated to form a system of oppression in which various forms of discrimination intersect. The theory was first highlighted by Kimberlé Krenshaw.

A hand holds a grey rectangular sign in the foreground. On the sign is a black transgender symbol (a circle with an arrow, a cross, and a combined arrow-cross) with a white equals sign in the center. Overlaid on the sign and the background is the text 'GENDER AND THE STUDY OF GENDER' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The background is a blurred crowd of people in a public square with classical architecture.

GENDER AND THE STUDY OF GENDER

WHY DOES GENDER MATTER

It matters because it shapes the identities and behavioural expectations of individuals

Gender enters into how people see themselves, the ways they behave, how they view others, and how others view them.

It matters in the ways that it shapes social interaction.

- Identities are products of and sustained through interactions with others

Gender matters because it organises social institutions (think back to school, the rules, norms, etc).

Gender matters because ideas about gender are embedded in our social structure(s)

Gender appears in how we speak about gender (discourse)

Gender has impacts on life experiences

Gender impacts agency (our ability to act)

Gender is a site of inequality

“We cannot fully understand gender without attending to gender”

GENDER, CULTURE AND CONTEXT

How gender is understood varies across cultures.

Much of the western analysis has focused issues of power and domination.

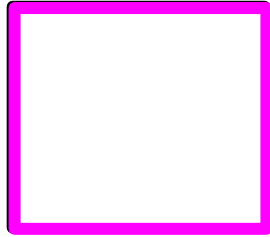
Other cultures have different ways of understanding gender and the relationships between genders.

Te ao Māori understandings of the interconnections of Wāhine Māori and Tāne Māori

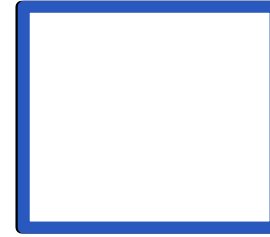
Impacts of colonisation on traditional norms and social arrangements

Watch **Pre-colonial attitudes to sex and gender fluidity**

QUESTIONING THE BINARY



F



M

DISCUSS

QUESTIONING THE BINARY



Sex difference is a category used by human beings as a way of dividing up the world they perceive around them and making sense of it.

How it has been understood (the meanings associated with it) has varied over time and between cultures.

In recent (contemporary?) western society the normative environment creates/ has created the idea of a binary [either or] dichotomy of gender.

This is either woman or man

... a binary choice between two genders (men and women, linked to a biological deterministic position of male or female)

The idea that there are only two genders is sometimes called a “gender binary,” binary meaning either/or.

QUESTIONING THE BINARY



A binary is an either/or.
Yes/No. True/False

Forms of binary categorization ...have been very central to western thinking (Harriet, 2012, p.21)

In the social sciences, as well as in social work, acceptance of and reliance on binary opposites (dichotomies) creates boundaries between groups of people,

Examples: Us–them, Black–White, gay–straight, male–female, oppressed–oppressor, mentally ill–normal, and able-bodied–disabled.

Importantly within a binary one group is often viewed or positioned as better/more superior to the other.

Binaries are in themselves oppressive, since they put limits on what we are expected, and thus able, to do (Harriet, 2012).

Seeing things as binary opposites (or as dichotomies) often hide more than they reveal (here we can talk of false dichotomies)


FROM SEX TO GENDER

Sex is a biological categorization whereas gender is the personal/social/cultural elaboration of (or what is built onto...) biological sex.

Gender builds on biological sex, but it exaggerates biological difference, and it carries biological difference into areas of life in which it may be completely irrelevant.

There is no biological reason, for example, why women should “sway” and men should “swagger” (do they?), or why women should have red toenails and men should not.

Likewise there is no reason (other than social norms) to associate pink with girls and blue with boys.



This is a very important point

FROM SEX (BIOLOGICAL) TO GENDER (SOCIAL/CULTURAL)

Sex refers to “the base of biological sex differences” for example, male, female, inter-sex

Gender: refers to the socio-cultural aspects of being a man or woman that is, how society sets the rules (or norms) for masculinity and femininity (Andermahr et al. 2000)

Gender therefore is not something fixed, but something that varies according to time, place and culture.

Sex is biological.

Gender is culturally defined and socially constructed

GENDER

Gender (as conceptualised in the social sciences) is a different concept that biological sex.

Gender is the socially, culturally and personally defined aspects of what it means to have(or be) a particular gender. It is a social construction.

We are socialised into gender through our primary socialisation and the gender norms that exist in our cultural and social contexts

People seem to make a big deal about gender (fixed norms?). What is the first question we ask a new parent?

Watch Girl toys vs boy toys:
The experiment

We are further socialised into particular gender roles, which carry gender expectations.

The institutions of society (e.g. religion, education, media etc.) continue this socialization process (and reinforce particular discourses of gender=hegemony).

GENDER

In sociology gender is seen as representative concept that contains a number of component parts.

It includes how individuals see themselves.

Gender identity.

How others perceive them and expect them to behave.

Gender norms

The assumed tasks and functions that people should do based on gender

Gender roles

The interactions that they have with others.

Gender relations

And how they may present (or express) themselves

Gender expression

Gender is not a binary.

Rather gender is seen as comprising a spectrum of feminine and masculine.

Both men and women can exhibit a spectrum of gender traits that aren't purely masculine or feminine.

For instance, someone might be a cisgender woman but have a more masculine gender expression.

TRANS-GENDER, CIS-GENDER, A-GENDER

Transgender (trans) and gender diverse are umbrella terms for people whose gender is different from their assigned sex at birth.

Cisgender (cis) is a term for people whose gender is the same as their assigned sex at birth.

Often one's gender (identity and expression) aligns with one's biological sex

This is termed cis gender (e.g. cis female, assigned female and identify as female or as a woman; cis male, assigned male at birth and identify as male or a "man")

Agender is a term used by people who do not identify with any gender.

TRANSGENDER, GENDER DIVERSE AND NON-BINARY

Transgender, gender diverse and non-binary are used to describe people whose gender identity (their internal sense of self) is different from the gender they were assigned at birth

Gender identity is your internal knowledge of your gender.

For example, your knowledge that you're a man, a woman, or another gender.

Gender expression is how a person presents their gender on the outside, often through behaviour, clothing, hairstyle, voice or body characteristics.

Some people don't neatly fit into the categories of "man" or "woman," or "male" or "female." Some people's gender changes over time. Some people don't identify with any gender at all and prefer the term non-binary.

TRANS-GENDER AND NON BINARY

Transgender identity is generally defined as a “cross-gender identification,” however transgender identities go beyond the male/female dichotomy and embrace a range of gender diverse identities

Including Non binary

Nonbinary genders do not fit the man/woman gender binary. Like the term transgender, nonbinary can be an umbrella term.

People under this umbrella may also describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms (like genderqueer or genderfluid) or may simply use ‘nonbinary’ or ‘nb’.

Approximately one third of people who identify as transgender do not identify as either male or female. Lamm 2019).

The terms transgender/gender diverse and non-binary are not indicative of sexual orientation.

DIVERSE GENDER IDENTITIES

Non-binary people are nothing new.
Non-binary people aren't confused
about their gender identity or
following a new fad.

Non-binary identities have been
recognized for millennia by cultures
and societies around the world.


For Māori Takatāpui meaning
'intimate companion of the same sex
has been reclaimed to embrace all
Māori who identify with diverse
sexes, genders and sexualities
including whakawāhine, tangata ira
tāne, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans,
intersex, and queer (Kerekere, 2016).

Read: GROWING UP TAKATĀPUI:
Whānau Journeys

In the Pacific context other diverse
gender identities include fa'afafine,
fakaleiti and fakafefine

BREAK



A background image showing a crowd of people at a protest. In the center, a person wears a red beanie and sunglasses. To the left, a woman with glasses looks forward. To the right, a person with a pink beanie and sunglasses has their mouth open as if shouting. A large sign with the word 'CLAIM' is visible in the background.

FEMINIST/GENDER THEORIES OF INEQUALITY

GENDER THEORISING

Much gender theorizing has come from within 'womens movements' and in academic feminist writing.

Three main features of feminist theorising.

(1) a (not necessarily exclusive) focus on the inequities, strains, and contradictions inherent in gender arrangements

(2) an assumption that gender relations are not immutable, but rather changeable social creations.

(3) a normative commitment that societies should develop equitable gender arrangements (Chafetz, 1999)

SOME COMMON REACTIONS WHEN LOOKING AT GENDER INEQUALITY

One common reaction is to see a discussion involving the hardships women experience as meaning that the speaker is claiming that 'men have it easy', or that gender inequality is 'men's fault'.

Gender inequality affects everyone.

Men don't 'have it easy', but we are all accountable for the privileges we hold (including gender, "race", class) and for working collectively to improve situations of inequality.

The issues we are examining here are larger than individual people's intentions or actions.

They are 'structural' issues.

Many people, of all genders, buy into them and play them out

TYPES OF GENDER/ FEMINIST THEORIZING

(ALSO HOW TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE WHO SUGGEST FEMINISM IS BAD)

Liberal
Feminism

Radical
feminism

Black
Feminism

Marxist and
Socialist
Feminism

Cultural
Feminism

Ecofeminism

TYPES OF GENDER/ FEMINIST THEORIZING

Post modern
Feminism

Post structural
Feminism

Queer Theory

Post Colonial
Theories of
gender

Anti oppressive
Theory

Indigenous
Theories

In Aotearoa.
Mana Wāhine

Intersectional
Feminism

CRITIQUE OF FEMINISM

Critiques of Feminism have included its tradition of both a Eurocentric and...

a middle-class lens on issues of gender.

Feminists of colour critiqued feminism for presenting ideas that did not map onto their reality

In the context of Aotearoa feminism can be critiqued for not attending to racism and colonization and for focusing on western understandings of gender oppression.

KEY FEMINIST IDEAS/AREAS OF FOCUS

Historical absence of women (gender blind history and theory) androcentrism. History has been His-story, not Her-story.

Women's movements and the focus of gender analysis has shifted over time

Equality before the law (property and voting)

Equality in work "you have nothing to loose, but your kitchen sinks"

Arguing for change: "the personal is political"...

..argues that problems that seem to be individual (e.g. domestic violence) were in fact systemic, structural and therefore political

Body autonomy/reproductive autonomy

Domestic labour (2nd shift)

Sexism in society and in work (wage gap, glass-ceiling)

Gender Violence

Sexual Violence

Objectification (media)

KEY FEMINIST IDEAS/AREAS OF FOCUS

Gender as social
construct

The need for
Intersectional analysis

Watch: [Intersectionality](#)

Trans rights

Indigenous rights

Identity Politics and the
Politics of Identity

Queer theory

#metoo

Consent culture

Constructions of
Masculinity

- Hegemonic masculinity
- Toxic masculinity
- Alternative Masculinities

Body shaming
Social constructions of
beauty

Sex positivity

KEY CONCEPTS

Gender stereotypes: The statuses of male and female are often stereotyped according to the traits (aspects of “temperament” , personality etc.) they are assumed to possess by virtue of their biological makeup (e.g. “natural” carers.)

Women have been (negatively) stereotyped as flighty and unreliable because they “possess uncontrollable raging hormones that fuel unpredictable emotional outbursts”.
(p.s. This is both wrong and sexist).

The assignment of negative stereotypes can result in sexism, the belief that the status of female is inferior to the status of male.

Actions based on this sexism leads to discrimination

KEY CONCEPTS

Sexism is perpetuated by systems of patriarchy, male-dominated social structures leading to the oppression of women.

Patriarchy was described by Millett (1971) in her influential book *Sexual Politics* as a system of male domination over women that was embedded in all the institutions of modern society.

Through the structures of patriarchy, men held power over women and devalued their social activities and contributions.

Not only were social institutions such as families, schools, churches and work organizations seen as patriarchal, but, [...] the very structures of language, ideas and thought were also shaped by men:

This is what became known as the 'malestream', which was to be challenged persistently by feminist academics.

KEY CONCEPTS

Patriarchy, by definition, exhibits androcentrism (male-centred norms) operating throughout all social institutions that become the standard to which all persons adhere.

Sexism is reinforced when patriarchy and androcentrism combine to perpetuate beliefs that gender roles are biologically determined and therefore unalterable.

For example, throughout history beliefs about a woman's biological unsuitability for anything other than domestic roles have restricted opportunities for education and employment

These restrictions have made men the guardians of what has been written, disseminated, and interpreted regarding gender and the placement of men and women in society.

KEY CONCEPTS

Heterosexual normativity (hetero-normativity) was also seen as a major mainstay of male power, suppressing a range of other possibilities for attachment/ partnership
(homosexuality, bisexuality, passionate friend-ships, celibacy)

Men are not immune to the negative consequences of sexism and stereotyping.

Rigid construction of femineity and masculinity limit human agency and restrict different ways of expressing.

Masculinity as hegemonic (for men and women)

Watch: Decoding the Man Box - Kevin Powell, Tony Porter

KEY CONCEPTS

Trans-feminism; both theory and praxis

Challenging the biological determinism and binary thinking of movements for gender equality

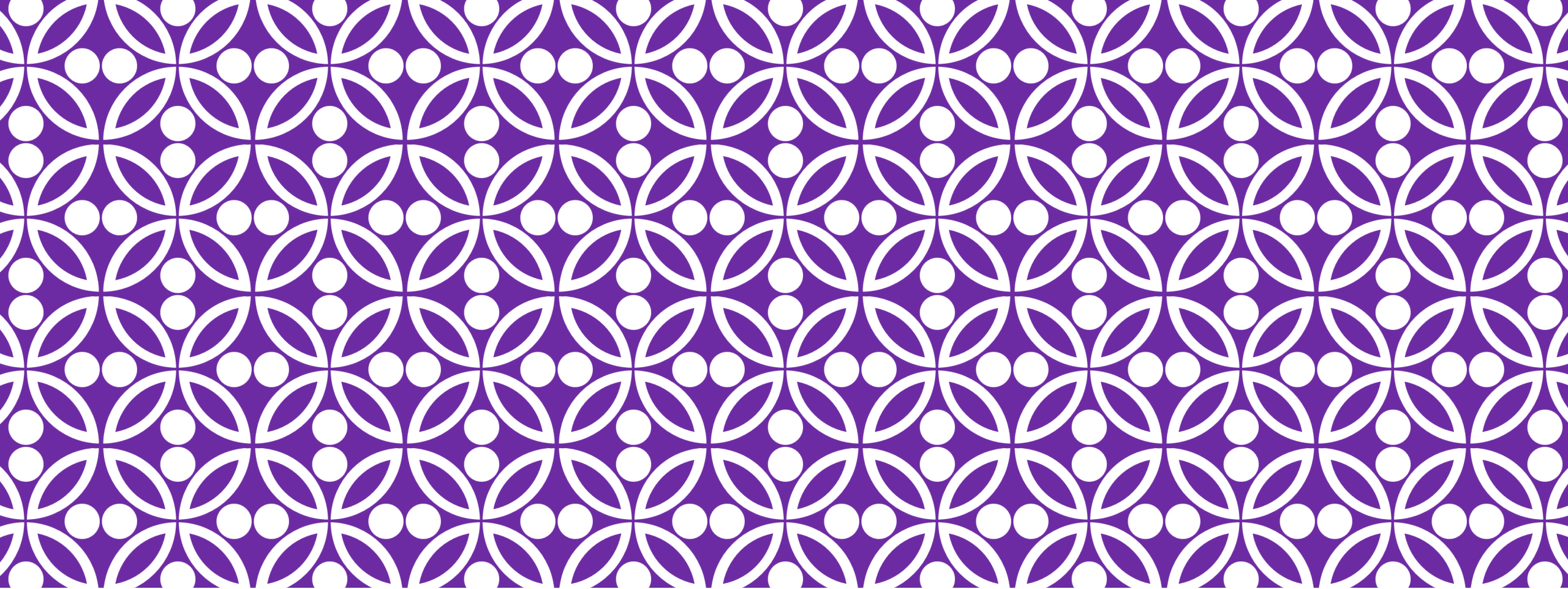
Understanding the diversity of transgender identities and experiences

Addressing inequalities

Discrimination

Access to employment and housing

Transphobia



GENDER AND SEXUALITY |

WHY DOES SEX MATTER SO MUCH?

Sex and sexuality are often referred to as the last taboo

It can be an area that people are uncomfortable discussing.

All societies regulate and approve certain patterns of sexuality and disapprove others (Stevens, 2011).

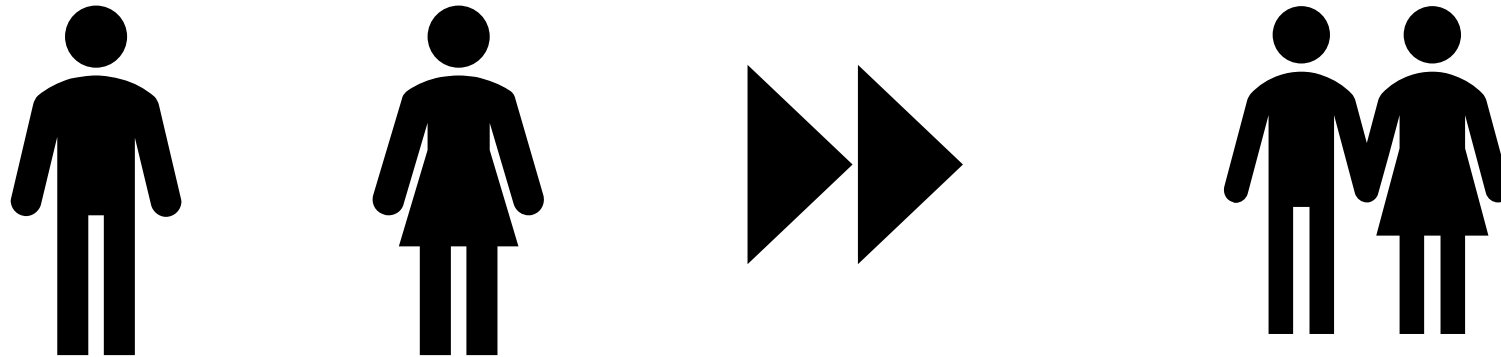
How human sexuality is expressed and patterned has been the subject of regulation in societies over centuries (Stevens, 2007).

As individuals we are encouraged to measure our sexual identity and sexual experiences against a politically and popularly supported ideal (Marsh, Keating, Punch & Harden, 2009).

This “ideal” can act as hegemonic, in the ways we accept and attempt to meet this ideal.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Binary constructions of gender have been mapped onto binary understandings of sexuality



This constructs the normative environment = Heteronormative
Heterosexuality is assumed by default.

SEXUALITY

Defining terms:

The sexual characteristics and sexual behaviours of human beings, involving social, biological, physical and emotional (spiritual?) aspects.

It is about our desires, our connections, who we love, who we are drawn to.

It is about how we identify

And how we experience the world.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sexual orientation can be seen to have three components

Sexual attraction: sexual interest in another person. Sexual attraction is having sexual feelings towards someone. A person may be attracted to one specific sex or gender, to more than one sex or gender, or to no-one.

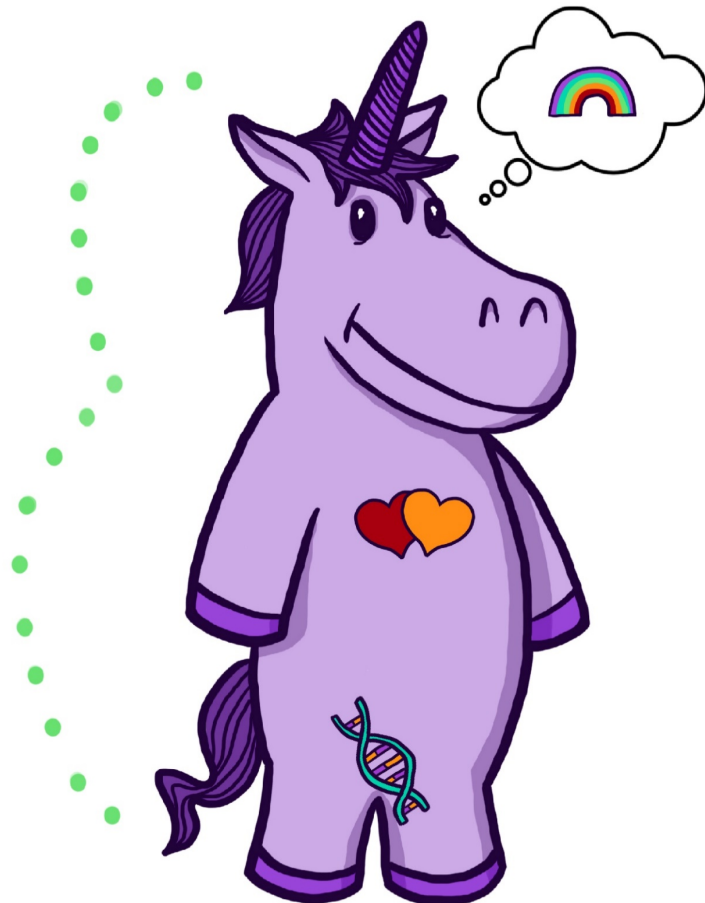
Sexual behaviour: how a person behaves sexually. It is whether they have sexual partners of another sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or refrain from sexual behaviour.

Sexual identity: how a person thinks of their own sexuality and the terms they identify with.

Sexual identity terms include lesbian, gay, straight, asexual, takatāpui, bisexual, or pansexual, among others.

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



 Gender Identity

 Female / Woman / Girl
Male / Man / Boy
Other Gender(s)

 Gender Expression

 Feminine
Masculine
Other

 Sex Assigned at Birth

Female Male Other/Intersex

 Physically Attracted to

 Women
Men
Other Gender(s)

 Emotionally Attracted to

 Women
Men
Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

SEXUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination based on sexuality is prohibited by law yet it remains a prevalent feature of society. (including verbal harassment, access to housing etc.)

Much of this discrimination is based on stereotypes, misinformation, and homophobia (an extreme or irrational aversion to homosexuals)

Major policies to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation have not come into effect until very recently

Sexual orientation is a significant source of social inequality

Homosexual Law Reform Act
1986

Civil Union Act 2004

Marriage (Definition of
Marriage) Amendment Act
2013

How our Politicians voted

HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

All societies regulate and approve certain patterns of sexuality and disapprove others (Stevens, 2011).

How sexuality is understood varies across cultures

How sexuality is understood has changed over history

Religion and Medical discourse has structured much of western societies understandings of sexuality.

Sin

Deviancy

RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Christian attitudes to the body and to sex have shaped (and continues to shape) social norms

Positions the body as dangerous (especially the female body) as it is the site of temptation (for men). (Stevens, 2007, 2011)

Sex was for procreation by a married couple only—anything else was sinful(Stevens, 2011).

Social movements that opposed this view were crushed(Stevens, 2011).

In a 1993 letter to his bishops, John Paul said both sex before marriage and contraception were intrinsically evil (Stevens, 2011).

SEXUALITY AND MODERNITY

As Western societies modernised and secularised sexuality became the domain of doctors, illness, medicine and the law.

The trend of modernity to classify, compartmentalise, label, and describe was also applied to human sexuality.

Continued the religious trend to position heterosexuality as normal.

Referencing supposedly immutable (unchangeable) biological rules of males and females needing to mate anything outside this was viewed as abnormal.

The difference was that rather than sin, science was invoked

The rise of typologies and categories of people (not just behaviours but the establishment of “deviant” identities (e.g “the homosexual”))



SEXUALITY AND MODERNITY

Theories of sexuality continued to be developed

E.g. Freud (repression of sexual desire appearing in neurosis)

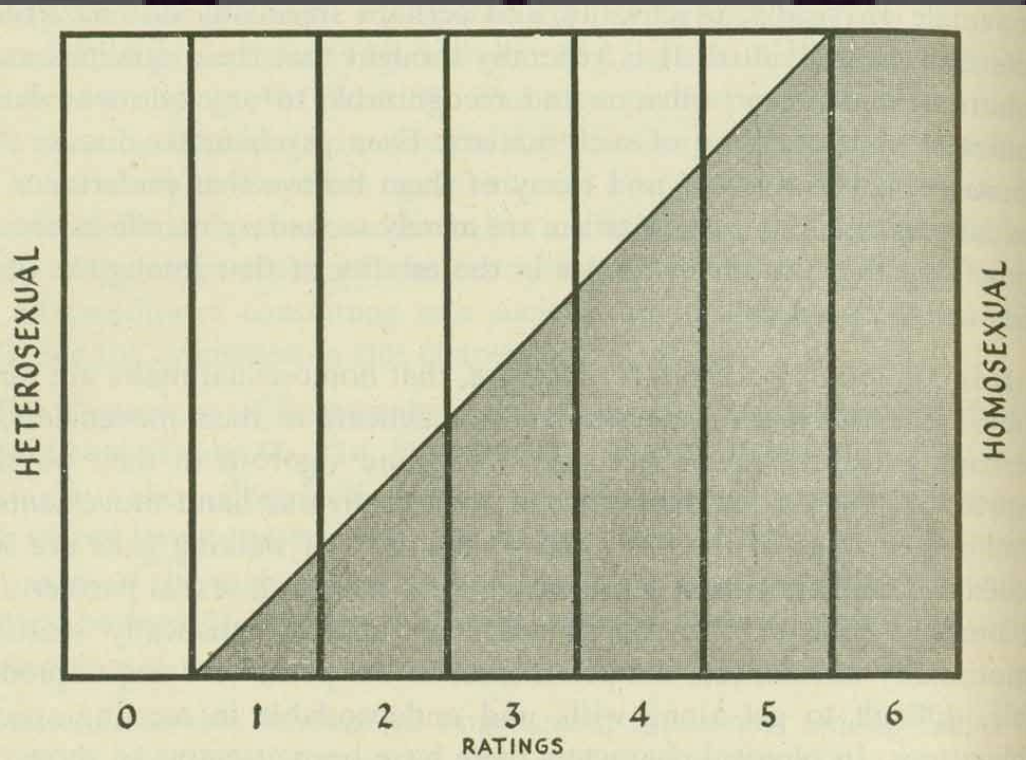
Kinsey (sexuality as a continuum)

Alfred Kinsey, the creator of the Kinsey scale, has been called "the father of the sexual revolution"

The Kinsey scale was created in order to demonstrate that sexuality does not fit into two strict categories: homosexual and heterosexual. Instead, Kinsey believed that sexuality is fluid and subject to change over time.

The Kinsey team interviewed thousands of people about their sexual histories. Research showed that sexual behavior, thoughts, and feelings towards the same or opposite sex were not always consistent across time.

Instead of assigning people to three categories—heterosexual, bisexual, and homosexual—the team used a seven-point scale. It ranges from 0 to 6 with an additional category of “X.”



Rating | Description

- 0 | Exclusively heterosexual
- 1 | Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual
- 2 | Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
- 3 | Equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4 | Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
- 5 | Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual
- 6 | Exclusively homosexual
- X | No socio-sexual contacts or reactions

SEXUAL LIBERATION - THE 60S

An era of huge social change thanks to the generation born into post-war prosperity, building on earlier ideas (e.g. Freud, Kinsey)

Liberation movements on racial civil rights

gender rights and gender equality

Gay liberation

Growing political emphasis on identity, a product of post-war modernity

RECLAIMING SEXUALITY

As part of contemporary feminism, sex and sexuality have become central issues

Acknowledging diversity (within sexuality and gender identification)

Rainbow People with Disabilities

Rainbow Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Accepting/affirming diversity

Continuing the need for awareness of how diversity intersects with other inequalities

(Re)claiming autonomy of the body, mind, both singularly and within relationships (rejecting fixed ideas of gender norms)

Challenging ideas of relationship patterns and norms

Non-monogamy

Reclaiming sexuality and sexual agency

Opposing cultural conditions that objectify women (e.g. rape culture)

Consent

CONTESTED STILL

Sexuality is still a major arena of social controversy

Different groups claim they have the right to (de) regulate sexual identities and sexual behaviour

Particular points of conflict are body autonomy and non heterosexual

Prejudice

Stereotypes

Discrimination

Violence and death.

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