



DECOLONIZING GENDER RELATIONS CONCEPT LIST

Gender: Gender is the range of mental and behavioral characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between and across, masculinity and femininity. In Western societies, the accepted cultural perspective on gender views women and men as naturally and unequivocally defined categories of being with distinctive psychological and behavioral propensities that can be predicted from their reproductive function. (The idea that women do feminine things, men do masculine things and it is just 'natural') ("Doing Gender", West and Zimmerman, 1987:126)

Sex: Sex is a determination made through the application of socially agreed upon biological criteria for classifying persons as females or males. The criteria for classification can be genitalia at birth or chromosomal typing before birth, and they do not necessarily agree with one another ("Doing Gender", West and Zimmerman, 1987:127).

Sexuality: a person's capacity for sexual feelings. Sexuality is fluid and includes a variety of attractions.

History: a process of ongoing struggle and change which includes connected events and happenings that are the consequence of coordinated and uncoordinated human actions.

Colonialism: a power relationship in which an external nation state (colonizer) directly controls the political and economic system of another nation state and/or people (colony). Involves the presence of a military force to crush dissent and the migration of people from the colony to the nation state of the colonizer.

Power: your ability to exercise/carry out your will/demands despite resistance. Power is the probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out their will despite resistance (Max Weber's "Economy and Society" (1922)).

Socialization: the process of learning and sharing norms, customs, values and ideologies in order to be able to participate in society. Socialization tells us that if we follow the set of rules, we can expect certain things in return. It is through socialization that we learn the dominating rules, social facts, ontologies, and ideologies of the society we are a member of.

Cisheteropatriarchy: a system of power based on the supremacy and dominance of cisheterosexual men through the exploitation and oppression of women and the LGBTQIA*. Also referred to as sexism. This includes oppressive constructs such as homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, etc..

Heteronormativity: when the standards and understandings of life are based on making heterosexuality the acceptable rule about sexual and gendered behavior. Heteronormativity is enforced in a patriarchal society.

Intersectionality: the interconnected nature of social, political, and economic categorizations/positions such as race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapped and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage; term coined by Kimberly Crenshaw in 1989.

Roles: sum total of expectations about the behavior attached to a particular social status

Social Problem: a relation between conditions and action, and as conditions and actions vary and change from group to group from time to time and from, place to place, so social problems change, develop and grow (Du Bois 1898).

Community: some linked set of others with who we have some compelling commonality (a kind of group).

Self-determination: freedom to determine what you want to do without having the will of others imposed upon you

Relationship: the way in which two or more things, concepts, objects, or people are connected and how they behave toward each other.

Decolonization: a historical process of the changing of the order of the world that seeks to abolish the exploitation of Indigenous peoples and overthrow economic and political exploitation of colonized lands.

Solidarity: mutual support and fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests, as between members of a group or between classes, peoples, etc.

FAMILIES OF ETHICS [A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox by Anthony Weston (2013:88-89)]:

(1) **THE ETHICS OF THE PERSON:** affirms that persons are special, precious, and have a dignity that demands respect. No one is to be reduced to a mere means to others' ends. Social relations require fairness, justice, and equality. Human and civil rights are essential too: they secure the space in which each person is recognized and can flourish.

(2) **THE ETHICS OF EQUITY/WELL-BEING:** Ethical thinking in this family of values is quantitative and economic, concerned with trade-offs and the distribution of goods, maximizing tangible social benefits.

(3) **THE ETHICS OF RELATIONSHIP:** encompasses those moral values concerned with our connections to others, from families to larger human communities. We are social beings as well as individuals: we grow up in families, take on traditions and heritages, and live within and depend upon human and non-human ecological communities. Recognizing how deeply our many communities make us who we are calls forth not only gratefulness but also a responsibility to care for and participate in them.