

Chapter 1 : Sex, Gender and Society: 1st Edition (Paperback) - Routledge

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Someone born with a penis will be a boy and someone with a vulva will be a girl. For many people, this is cause for little, if any, concern or further thought. Gender expression is also related to gender roles and how society uses those roles to try to enforce conformity to current gender norms. Each of these dimensions can vary greatly across a range of possibilities. Body Most societies view sex as a binary concept, with two rigidly fixed options: But a sex binary fails to capture even the biological aspect of gender. In fact, research increasingly points to our brains as playing a key role in how we each experience our gender. Bodies themselves are also gendered in the context of cultural expectations. This gendering of our bodies affects how we feel about ourselves and how others perceive and interact with us. Identity Gender identity is our internal experience and naming of our gender. A Cisgender person has a gender identity consistent with the sex they were assigned at birth. A Transgender person has a gender identity that does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. The two most common gender identities are boy and girl or man and woman , and often people think that these are the only two gender identities. But gender is a spectrum, and not limited to just two possibilities. A child may have a Non-binary gender identity, meaning they do not identify strictly as a boy or a girl – they could identify as both, or neither, or as another gender entirely. Agender people do not identify with any gender. Understanding of our gender comes to most of us fairly early in life. Individuals do not choose their gender, nor can they be made to change it, though the words someone uses to communicate their gender identity may change over time e. Naming our gender can be a complex and evolving matter. Because we are provided with limited language for gender, it may take a person quite some time to discover, or create, the language that best communicates their gender. Descriptors for gender identities are rapidly expanding ; youth and young adults today no longer feel bound to identify strictly with one of two genders, but are instead establishing a growing vocabulary for gender. More than just a series of new words, however, this shift in language represents a far more nuanced understanding of the experience of gender itself. There is a generational divide in our fundamental understandings of gender and how we think about this aspect of who we are. Expression The third dimension of gender is Gender expression, which is the way we show our gender to the world around us through such things as clothing, hairstyles, and mannerisms, to name a few. Practically everything is assigned a gender – toys, colors, clothes, and activities are some of the more obvious examples. Accepted gender roles and expectations are so entrenched in our culture that most people cannot imagine any other way. Through a combination of social conditioning and personal preference, by age three most children prefer activities and exhibit behaviors typically associated with their sex. For individuals who fit fairly neatly into expected gender roles and expression, there may be little cause to think about, or question, their gender, or how gender is created, communicated, and reinforced in our lives. However, children who express gender in ways that are perceived to be outside of these social norms often have a very different experience. Girls thought to be too masculine especially as they move into their teens and boys seen as feminine at any age face a variety of challenges. Pressures to conform at home, mistreatment by peers in school, and condemnation by the broader society are just some of the difficulties facing a child whose expression does not fall into line with the binary gender system. For many young people, whether typical in their presentation or not, expression is the most tangible aspect of their gender experience, impacting them in many, if not all, of their interactions with others. Norms around gender expression change across societies and over time. One need only consider men wearing earrings or women having tattoos to see the flexibility of social expectations about gender. Because expectations around gender expression are so rigid, we frequently assume that what someone wears, or how they move, talk, or express themselves, tells us something about their gender identity. For example, a cisgender boy may like to wear skirts or dresses. Gender Is Different Than Sexual Orientation One final distinction to make is the difference between gender and Sexual orientation, which are often incorrectly thought to be the same thing. However, gender and sexual orientation are two distinct aspects of our identity.

Why is it so critical to distinguish these two concepts? When we confuse gender with sexual orientation, we are likely to make assumptions about a young person that have nothing to do with who they are. These are faulty conclusions. Thinking of these two aspects of self as interchangeable may, instead of helping us know ourselves and one another better, actually get in the way of our ability to understand and communicate with one another. Gender diversity has existed throughout history and all over the world. Where this crucial aspect of self is narrowly defined and rigidly enforced, individuals who exist outside of its norms face innumerable challenges. Even those who vary only slightly from the norm can become targets of disapproval. This does not have to be the case. Not only will this create greater inclusion for individuals who challenge the norms of gender, it will create space for all individuals to more fully explore and celebrate who they are.

Chapter 2 : Understanding Gender | Gender Spectrum

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Identity and expression Historically, the terms "sex" and "gender" have been used interchangeably, but their uses are becoming increasingly distinct, and it is important to understand the differences between the two. This article will look at the meaning of "sex" and the differences between the sexes. It will also look at the meaning of "gender," and the concepts of gender roles, gender identity, and gender expression. In general terms, "sex" refers to the biological differences between males and females, such as the genitalia and genetic differences. These individuals might refer to themselves as transgender, non-binary, or gender-nonconforming. Sex "Sex" generally refers to biological differences. The differences between male and female sexes are anatomical and physiological. For instance, male and female genitalia, both internal and external are different. Similarly, the levels and types of hormones present in male and female bodies are different. Genetic factors define the sex of an individual. Women have 46 chromosomes including two Xs and men have 46 including an X and a Y. The Y chromosome is dominant and carries the signal for the embryo to begin growing testes. Both men and women have testosterone , estrogen , and progesterone. However, women have higher levels of estrogen and progesterone, and men have higher levels of testosterone. For instance, some men are born with two or three X chromosomes, just as some women are born with a Y chromosome. In some cases, a child is born with a mix between female and male genitalia. They are sometimes termed intersex, and the parents may decide which gender to assign to the child. Intersex individuals account for around 1 in 1, births. Some people believe that sex should be considered a continuum rather than two mutually exclusive categories. Gender Gender roles vary greatly between societies. Gender tends to denote the social and cultural role of each sex within a given society. Rather than being purely assigned by genetics, as sex differences generally are, people often develop their gender roles in response to their environment, including family interactions, the media, peers, and education. It varies from society to society and can be changed. The degree of decision-making and financial responsibility expected of each gender and the time that women or men are expected to spend on homemaking and rearing children varies between cultures. Within the wider culture, families too have their norms. Gender roles are not set in stone. In many societies, men are increasingly taking on roles traditionally seen as belonging to women, and women are playing the parts previously assigned mostly to men. Gender roles and gender stereotypes are highly fluid and can shift substantially over time. Who wears the high heels? For instance, high-heeled shoes, now considered feminine throughout much of the world, were initially designed for upper-class men to use when hunting on horseback. As women began wearing high heels, male heels slowly became shorter and fatter as female heels grew taller and thinner. Over time, the perception of the high heel gradually became seen as feminine. There is nothing intrinsically feminine about the high heel. Social norms have made it so. Pink for a girl and blue for a boy? In many countries, pink is seen as a suitable color for a girl to wear, while boys are dressed in blue. However, infants were dressed in white until colored garments for babies were introduced in the middle of the 19th century. The reason is that pink, being a more decided and stronger color, is more suitable for the boy, while blue, which is more delicate and dainty, is prettier for the girl.

Chapter 3 : Gender & Society

Gender is a Latin word, meaning sex in terms of masculinity and femininity, and is used in sociology. She and other sociologists were suggesting that perhaps women and men were only as different as a society made them.

However, it may be analyzed in terms of biology—a girl must pass puberty to become a woman—and sociology, as a great deal of mature relating in social contexts is learned rather than instinctive. In gender studies the term gender refers to proposed social and cultural constructions of masculinities and femininities. In this context, gender explicitly excludes reference to biological differences, to focus on cultural differences. Those who followed Butler came to regard gender roles as a practice, sometimes referred to as "performative". Hurst states that some people think sex will, "For example, Michael Schwalbe believes that humans must be taught how to act appropriately in their designated gender to fill the role properly, and that the way people behave as masculine or feminine interacts with social expectations. Schwalbe comments that humans "are the results of many people embracing and acting on similar ideas". Schwalbe believes that these distinctions are important, because society wants to identify and categorize people as soon as we see them. They need to place people into distinct categories to know how we should feel about them. Hurst comments that in a society where we present our genders so distinctly, there can often be severe consequences for breaking these cultural norms. Many of these consequences are rooted in discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gays and lesbians are often discriminated against in our legal system because of societal prejudices. He says that "courts often confuse sex, gender, and sexual orientation, and confuse them in a way that results in denying the rights not only of gays and lesbians, but also of those who do not present themselves or act in a manner traditionally expected of their sex". Andrea Dworkin stated her "commitment to destroying male dominance and gender itself" while stating her belief in radical feminism. She notes that a transition occurred when several feminist scholars, such as Sandra Harding and Joan Scott, began to conceive of gender "as an analytic category within which humans think about and organize their social activity". Feminist scholars in Political Science began employing gender as an analytical category, which highlighted "social and political relations neglected by mainstream accounts". However, Hawkesworth states "feminist political science has not become a dominant paradigm within the discipline". It may also demonstrate how gender differences, not necessarily corresponding precisely with sex, may "constrain or facilitate political" actors. Gender as a process has two central manifestations in political science research, firstly in determining "the differential effects of structures and policies upon men and women," and secondly, the ways in which masculine and feminine political actors "actively work to produce favorable gendered outcomes". Gendering is a socially constructed process based on culture, though often cultural expectations around women and men have a direct relationship to their biology. Because of this, Newman argues, many privilege sex as being a cause of oppression and ignore other issues like race, ability, poverty, etc. She also points out that other non-Western cultures do not necessarily have the same views of gender and gender roles. Newman believes this is problematic because there is no unified definition as to what equality means or looks like, and that this can be significantly important in areas like public policy. Sociologists generally regard gender as a social construct, and various researchers, including many feminists, consider sex to only be a matter of biology and something that is not about social or cultural construction. For instance, sexologist John Money suggests the distinction between biological sex and gender as a role. However, there are scholars who argue that sex is also socially constructed. It would make no sense, then, to define gender as the cultural interpretation of sex, if sex is itself a gender-centered category. Gender should not be conceived merely as the cultural inscription of meaning based on a given sex a juridical conception; gender must also designate the very apparatus of production whereby the sexes themselves are established. She argues that colonial powers used a gender system as a tool for domination and fundamentally changing social relations among the indigenous. She argues that male and female genitals were considered inherently the same in Western society until the 18th century. At that time, female genitals were regarded as incomplete male genitals, and the difference between the two was conceived as a matter of degree. In other words, there was a gradation of physical forms, or a spectrum. Therefore, the current perspective toward sex,

which is to consider women and men and their typical genitalia as the only possible natural options, came into existence through historical, not biological roots. She starts her argument with an example of the birth of an intersexual individual and maintains "our conceptions of the nature of gender difference shape, even as they reflect, the ways we structure our social system and polity; they also shape and reflect our understanding of our physical bodies. After describing how the doctors inform parents about the intersexuality, she asserts that because the doctors believe that the intersexuals are actually male or female, they tell the parents of the intersexuals that it will take a little bit more time for the doctors to determine whether the infant is a boy or a girl. Lastly, she maintains that the differences in the ways in which the medical professionals in different regions treat intersexual people also give us a good example of how sex is socially constructed. A group of physicians from Saudi Arabia recently reported on several cases of XX intersex children with congenital adrenal hyperplasia CAH , a genetically inherited malfunction of the enzymes that aid in making steroid hormones. A number of parents, however, refused to accept the recommendation that their child, initially identified as a son, be raised instead as a daughter. Nor would they accept feminizing surgery for their child. In this article, Fausto-Sterling states that Western culture has only two sexes and that even their language restricts the presence of more than two sexes. She argues that instead of having a binomial nomenclature for organizing humans into two distinct sexes male and female , there are at least five sexes in the broad spectrum of gender. These five sexes include male, female, hermaphrodite, female pseudohermaphrodites individuals who have ovaries and some male genitalia but lack testes , and male pseudohermaphrodites individuals who have testes and some female genitalia but lack ovaries. Fausto-Sterling additionally adds that in the category of hermaphrodites, there are additional degrees and levels in which the genitalia are developed; this means that there may be more intersexes that exist in this continuum of gender. Fausto-Sterling argues that sex has been gradually institutionally disciplined into a binary system through medical advances. She brings up multiple instances where gender in history was not split into strictly male or female, Fausto-Sterling mentioned that by the end of the Middle Age, intersex individuals were forced to pick a side in the binary gender code and to adhere by it. She emphasizes that the role of the medical community is that of an institutionalized discipline on society that there can only be two sexes: She finishes up her argument asking what would happen if society started accepting intersex individuals. Gender Intensification Revisited focuses on the work of Heather A. Lindberg, and Janet Shibley Hyde on whether or not girls and boys diverge in their gender identities during adolescent years. Authors of Unpacking the Gender System: The coauthors argue that daily people are forced to acknowledge and interact with others in ways that are related to gender. Ridgeway and Correll then shift their topic towards sex categorization. The authors define sex categorization as "the sociocognitive process by which we label another as male or female. Sexual differentiation and Sexual differentiation in humans In most cases, men and women and boys and girls are similar in behavior, with little gender difference, but some gendered behavior is influenced by prenatal and early life androgen exposure. This includes, for example, gender normative play, self-identification with a gender, and tendency to engage in aggressive behavior. These levels may also influence sexuality, with non-heterosexual persons exhibiting sex atypical behavior in childhood. One of the earliest areas of interest was what became known as "gender identity disorder" GID and which is now also described as gender dysphoria. Studies in this, and related areas, inform the following summary of the subject by John Money. The term "gender role" appeared in print first in The term gender identity was used in a press release, November 21, , to announce the new clinic for transsexuals at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. It was disseminated in the media worldwide, and soon entered the vernacular. The definitions of gender and gender identity vary on a doctrinal basis. In popularized and scientifically debased usage, sex is what you are biologically; gender is what you become socially; gender identity is your own sense or conviction of maleness or femaleness; and gender role is the cultural stereotype of what is masculine and feminine. Causality with respect to gender identity disorder is sub-divisible into genetic, prenatal hormonal, postnatal social, and post-pubertal hormonal determinants, but there is, as yet, no comprehensive and detailed theory of causality. Gender coding in the brain is bipolar. These extend from the exclusively biological "genetic" and "prenatal hormonal" differences between men and women, to "postnatal" features, some of which are social, but others have been shown to result from "post-pubertal hormonal" effects. Although

causation from the biologicalâ€” genetic and hormonal â€”to the behavioral has been broadly demonstrated and accepted, Money is careful to also note that understanding of the causal chains from biology to behavior in sex and gender issues is very far from complete. For example, the existence of a " gay gene " has not been proven, but such a gene remains an acknowledged possibility. These women usually have ordinary female appearances though nearly all girls with congenital adrenal hyperplasia CAH have corrective surgery performed on their genitals. However, despite taking hormone-balancing medication given to them at birth, these females are statistically more likely to be interested in activities traditionally linked to males than female activities. Psychology professor and CAH researcher Dr. Sheri Berenbaum attributes these differences to an exposure of higher levels of male sex hormones in utero.

Chapter 4 : Review of Oakley, Ann: Sex, Gender and Society

In summary, sex refers to the biological differences between men and women, while gender refers to psychological differences, including how masculine or feminine you are.

By definition, males have small, mobile gametes sperm ; females have large and generally immobile gametes ova or eggs. People whose internal psychological experience differs from their assigned sex are transgender , transsexual , or non-binary. The consensus among scientists is that all behaviors are phenotypes “complex interactions of both biology and environment” and thus nature vs. For example, the human "sex difference" in height is a consequence of sexual selection, while the "gender difference" typically seen in head hair length women with longer hair is not. Laqueur suggests that from the Renaissance to the 18th century, there was a prevailing inclination among doctors towards the existence of only one biological sex the one-sex theory , that women and men had the same fundamental reproductive structure. Some people maintain that the word sex should be reserved for reference to the biological aspects of being male or female or to sexual activity, and that the word gender should be used only to refer to sociocultural roles. In some situations this distinction avoids ambiguity, as in gender research, which is clear in a way that sex research is not. The distinction can be problematic, however. Sex is "the classification of people as male or female" at birth, based on bodily characteristics such as chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs, and genitalia. See, for example, *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* , a widely influential feminist text. Reimer was in fact not comfortable as a girl and later changed gender identity back to male when discovered the truth of his surgery. He eventually committed suicide. By the 20th century, this meaning was obsolete, and the only formal use of gender was in grammar. This meaning of gender is now prevalent in the social sciences, although in many other contexts, gender includes sex or replaces it. Language and gender Since the social sciences now distinguish between biologically defined sex and socially constructed gender, the term gender is now also sometimes used by linguists to refer to social gender as well as grammatical gender. Traditionally, however, a distinction has been made by linguists between sex and gender, where sex refers primarily to the attributes of real-world entities “ the relevant extralinguistic attributes being, for instance, male, female, non-personal, and indeterminate sex ” and grammatical gender refers to a category, such as masculine, feminine, and neuter often based on sex, but not exclusively so in all languages , that determines the agreement between nouns of different genders and associated words, such as articles and adjectives. Nouns referring to people and animals of known sex are generally referred to by nouns with the equivalent gender. Thus Mann meaning man is masculine and is associated with a masculine definite article to give der Mann, while Frau meaning woman is feminine and is associated with a feminine definite article to give die Frau. However the words for inanimate objects are commonly masculine e. In modern English, there is no true grammatical gender in this sense, [39] though the differentiation, for instance, between the pronouns "he" and "she", which in English refers to a difference in sex or social gender , is sometimes referred to as a gender distinction. A *Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, for instance, refers to the semantically based "covert" gender e. These terms suggest that the behavior of an individual can be partitioned into separate biological and cultural factors. However, behavioral differences between individuals can be statistically partitioned, as studied by behavioral genetics. Instead, all behaviors are phenotypes “a complex interweaving of both nature and nurture. The use of different terms to label these two types of contributions to human existence seemed inappropriate in light of the biopsychosocial position I have taken. But part of it is a limitation of the English language. However, it is not at all clear the degree to which the differences between males and females are due to biological factors versus learned and cultural factors. Furthermore, indiscriminate use of the word gender tends to obscure the distinction between two different topics: The term sex difference could then be re-defined as between-sex differences that are manifestations of a sexually dimorphic adaptation which is how many scientists use the term , [48] [49] while the term gender difference could be re-defined as due to differential socialization between the sexes of a monomorphic adaptation or byproduct. For example, greater male propensity toward physical aggression and risk taking would be termed

a "sex difference;" the generally longer head hair length of females would be termed a "gender difference. Transgender and Genderqueer Transgender people experience a mismatch between their gender identity or gender expression , and their assigned sex. Transgender is also an umbrella term: Feminist views on transgender topics General Many feminists consider sex to only be a matter of biology and something that is not about social or cultural construction. This is because "complete maleness and complete femaleness represent the extreme ends of a spectrum of possible body types. Rather than viewing sex as a biological construct, there are feminists who accept both sex and gender as a social construct. Humans today, typically doctors decide how small a penis has to be, or how unusual a combination of parts has to be, before it counts as intersex. Rather, doctors decide what seems to be a "natural" sex for the inhabitants of society. Limitations Some feminists go further and argue that neither sex nor gender are strictly binary concepts. Judith Lorber , for instance, has stated that many conventional indicators of sex are not sufficient to demarcate male from female. For example, not all women lactate, while some men do. Lorber writes, "My perspective goes beyond accepted feminist views that gender is a cultural overlay that modifies physiological sex differences [Discussing sex as biological fact causes sex to appear natural and politically neutral. However, she argues that "the ostensibly natural facts of sex [are] discursively produced in the service of other political and social interests.

Chapter 5 : Sex, Gender and Society - Ann Oakley - Google Books

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Chapter 6 : Sex and gender: Meanings, definition, identity, and expression

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Chapter 7 : Sex, Gender and Society by Ann Oakley

Gender & Society is a peer-reviewed journal focused on research related to sociology, gender studies and women's studies. The journal publishes less than 10% of all papers submitted to it. The journal publishes less than 10% of all papers submitted to it.

Chapter 8 : Gender - Wikipedia

Sex, Gender, and Society By Ann Oakley Sex and gender are two terms that are often interchanged in common language without real knowledge as to the complex differences between the two. Sex primarily pertains to the biological aspect of being either a man or a woman, depending on several physical conditions, the most common of which is the.

Chapter 9 : Sex and gender distinction - Wikipedia

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women." Neat. So a gender difference is due to.