

Unit 2 Reflection and Discussion

Purpose:

This week we have explored the physical and social constructions of the gender binary. We have also explored how we can understand gender identity to be a continuum. These reflections help us to dive deeper.

Option 1: Gender Expression

Many societies and cultures around the world recognize a third gender, an androgynous gender, or transgender as a valid expression of gender identity. Please find an article, story, poem, video, song, or another social artifact that describes the experience of this alternate gender.

1. Post or link to the artifact that you found.
2. Respond, by answering the following questions:
 - Describe this experience of gender - What is it called, who gets to do it, what are some of the typical behaviors, where in the world is this practiced, etc.
 - If you were that gender, how might you experience the world?
 - Does this gender identity serve an important role or function for the related society? If so, what is it?

Option 2: Popular Culture

For this response, please start with identifying the book, movie, TV show, or graphic novel you are using for your popular fiction option. Then....

- What is the gender identity of the main character(s) of your popular fiction?
- How do they "do" the gender identity that they are?
- Do they experience power or oppression related to their gender identity? What evidence in your fiction demonstrates this?
- Do they experience agency, bodily autonomy, or resilience as part of their gender identity? What evidence in your fiction demonstrates this?

Option 3: My Family

For this response, please consider three generations of family. If you like, you can interview your parents, grandparents or kids. (If you don't have this family construction, you can interview role models in your life or chosen family.)

- What messages did you receive about being a man, a woman, or non-binary?
- Who influenced you the most around how you "did" your gender?
- Did you actively rebel or reject these messages? In what ways?

- Do you think our ideas about women, men, and non-binary folx have changed across generations? If so, how?

Criteria for Success

This assignment is worth 15 points, including

- your initial illustration and post (150-200 words),
- defining and applying at least one sociological term or concept from the course textbook,
- and your response to another student.

Your response could answer what made you think, what made you curious to know more, or what did you resonate with. The response should be 100-150 words and go beyond "Great answer" or "Good Job".

Also, as good scientists, we cite our sources. **Please remember to use parenthesis in your text, like (Esbensen 2023:3), AND add the complete citation at the end of your post.**

To review the rubric used to grade your discussion posts, click the three-dot menu in the upper right corner of the screen.