

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER? 193

sex: the biological makeup of a male or female

gender: the personal traits and position in society connected with being a male or female

WHAT ARE THE PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND GENDER INEQUALITY? 201

feminist theory: feminists share the belief that equality in work and education should increase, human choice for outcomes should be expanded, gender stratification should be eliminated, and sexual violence should end

functionalism: the separation of gender roles eliminates competition between the sexes and makes family life run smoothly

conflict theory: capitalism and patriarchy are intertwined; as a result, women are locked in a never-ending cycle that makes them submissive and subservient to men

symbolic interactionism: people's definition of gender develops from everyday interactions with others from the same and opposite sex

WHAT POLICIES ARE IN PLACE TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? 205

campaigns against sexual assault and domestic violence, shelters, and counseling services

get the topic: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER?

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Theory

FUNCTIONALISM 202

- gender differences help maintain a functioning society
- parents socialize boys and girls to their future roles of fathers and mothers
- boys are taught to be competitive and confident; girls are taught to be nurturing and caring

CONFLICT THEORY 202

- gender roles are beneficial to men, as their role as main breadwinner gives them power and control
- capitalism emphasizes male domination, as women are encouraged to spend money on goods

- Engels: women are the first oppressed group

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM 202

- women select careers based on the types of work that are considered “normal” for women to perform
- certain careers are perceived as “masculine,” which drives many capable women away from even attempting to enter these fields
- differences in the career choices of men and women begin early in life
- people “do gender” every day, which creates gender differences and inequality

Key Terms

sex is the biological makeup of a male or female. 193

gender identity is our perception of ourselves as male or female. 193

patriarchy is a social system in which the father serves as head of the family, and men have authority over women and children. 194

matriarchy is a social system in which women are the main authority and hold power over men. 194

sexism is the belief that one sex is superior to the other. 194

gender roles are society's expectations of how males and females should act and think. 194

calalai are anatomical females in Bugis society who assume the characteristics of men. 196

calabai are anatomical males in Bugis society who adhere to some of the responsibilities of women. 196

bissu are androgynous members of Bugis society who embody the perfect mixture of male and the female. 196

human capital model assumes that men and women bring different natural skills to the workplace. 198

choice model explains the income gap by analyzing the kinds of jobs women choose. 198

patriarchy model assumes that we have a male-dominated society that doesn't allow women to hold upper-tier jobs. 198

glass ceiling is an invisible barrier preventing women from reaching executive-level positions in the workplace. 198

feminism is the vast collection of social movements and theories about gender differences, proposing social equality for all people. 200

machismo is overt and exaggerated displays of masculinity. 203

Sample Test Questions

These multiple-choice questions are similar to those found in the test bank that accompanies this textbook.

1. Gender identity is mostly developed at which stage in life?
 - a. Childhood
 - b. Middle age
 - c. Adolescence
 - d. Late adulthood
2. Children are socialized to fit specific
 - a. gender roles.
 - b. social classes.
 - c. gender inequities.
 - d. occupational roles.
3. Which of the following is *not* one of Dr. M. Gigi Durham's myths about sexuality?
 - a. Girls don't choose boys. Boys choose girls, but only sexy ones.
 - b. There's only one kind of sexy—slender, curvy, white beauty.
 - c. Girls should be satisfied with their current body type.
 - d. The younger a girl is, the sexier she is.
4. Which of the following is a major cause of the increase in working mothers?
 - a. More educational opportunities for women
 - b. Increase in homosexuality
 - c. Rising divorce rate
 - d. Lack of children
5. According to functionalist analysis, children are socialized in order to
 - a. keep men in a dominant position in society.
 - b. maintain a society that runs properly.
 - c. establish a clear career path.
 - d. entertain their parents.

ESSAY

1. How have gender roles in the United States changed and stayed the same since the 1950s?
2. What are the underlying causes of sexism, and will society ever be able to overcome them?
3. How might society be different if traditional gender roles were reversed?
4. Which of the three models explaining inequality in the workplace do you think is the strongest?
5. How effective do you think the feminist movement has been in championing women's equality?

WHERE TO START YOUR RESEARCH PAPER

To learn more about the “riot grrrls” movement, go to <http://eamusic.dartmouth.edu/~wowem/electronmedia/mish/riot-grrrl.html>

For more information on the National Organization for Women (NOW), go to their Web site <http://www.now.org/>

To learn more about Take Back the Night, go to their Web site <http://www.takebackthenight.org/>

To learn more about Dress for Success, go to <http://www.dressforsuccess.org/>

Remember to check www.thethinkspot.com for additional information, downloadable flashcards, and other helpful resources.