

Gender and Political Representation

Concepts

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Logistics

Any thoughts on the syllabus?

- Assessment criteria
- Missing literature?
- Other things

Logistics

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The syllabus is dynamic, i.e., it can change during the term. If any questions come to your mind in the course of the term, please let me know!

On well-being...

Last week, there were a lot of general logistics, one more important information:

1. slides and guides on sexualized violence and harassment in universities on the Learnweb

Plan for today

Today, there are two agenda items:

1. On the topic: Concepts and empirics of gender
2. On method: Why to compare?

Of sex, gender and sexual identities

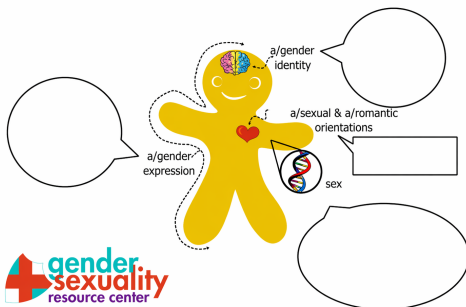


Figure: The 'Genderbread' (Graph by Princeton Gender + Sexuality Resource Center, developed by Sam Killerman)

Form three groups to complete the blanks in the graph.

Of sex, gender and sexual identities

Distinguishing sex, gender and sexual identities

- **Sex:** denotes the anatomic characteristics of a human being (as defined by genitalia, hormones and other physical features); it's assigned by birth
- **Gender:** socially constructed role ascribed to people
 - identity: how you think of your gender
 - expression: how you articulate your gender
- **Sexual identity:** to whom one is attracted to

Of sex, gender and sexual identities

Sex is a biological concept whereas gender and sexual identity are social constructs. Do you agree?

Of sex, gender and sexual identities

Despite the differences between sex, gender and sexual identity, they should not be regarded in isolation

- gender is often inferred from a person's sex
 - if people identify with the gender they are assigned to, they are *cisgender*
 - if people do not identify with the sex assigned to at birth, they are *transgender*
- sex can also be regarded as a social category and more gradual than often assumed → e.g., what's the hormone threshold that distinguishes men from women (cf. Hawkesworth 2013)
- different components can interact in their effect on social and political outcomes

Intersectionality

How would you define intersectionality?

Intersectionality

According to Collins and Chepp (2013, 58ff.), intersectionality states that

“gender, race, class, sexuality, age, ethnicity, ability, and similar phenomena cannot be analytically understood in isolation from one another; instead, these constructs signal an intersecting constellation of power relationships that produce unequal material realities and distinctive social experiences for individuals and groups positioned within them.”

Why is intersectionality important to the study of gender in politics?

Intersectionality

- gender is context-dependent, its influence is shaped by other individual characteristics (like race) and may differ across socio-political environments
- we often approach it from a *WEIRD* angle (Henrich et al. 2010)
- this course has some shortcomings as well, focusing a lot on Western countries and also Western-based scholars

Explaining gendered dynamics in politics

Paxton et al. (2007) distinguishes four clusters of explanations.

1. **demand-side factors**
2. **supply-side factors**
3. **cultural explanations**
4. **(international factors)**

Explaining gendered dynamics in politics

Remain in your groups (**Group A**: Demand-Side, **Group B**: Supply-Side, **Group C**: Cultural Explanations) and reply to the following questions based on Paxton et al. (2007) and a brief web research:

- What does your explanation mean?
- Through which factors is your explanation manifested?
- Is there any progress/backlash regarding your explanation in recent years?
- What might be challenging in doing research in the realm of your explanation?

Take 15 minutes, afterwards, we'll get back to the large group.

What we've learned today...

- ...what's the difference between sex, gender and sexual identity
- ...why intersectionality is important for our understanding of gender
- ...what we might need to study to understand gendered inequalities in political representation
- ...why we compare

To prepare for next week...

- Next week is about representation: is descriptive representation a necessary criteria for women's substantial representation in office
- Readings:
 - **Main reading:**
 - Mansbridge, J. (1999). Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent "Yes". *The Journal of Politics*, 61(3), 628–657. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2647821>
 - **Complementary readings:**
 - Pitkin, H. F. (1967). *The Concept of Representation*. University of California Press
 - Wolkenstein, F., & Wratil, C. (2021). Multidimensional Representation. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(4), 862–876. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12563>

Thank you for your attention!
Any further questions?

Literature

- Collins, P. H., & Chepp, V. (2013). Intersectionality. In G. Waylen, K. Celis, J. Kantola, & S. L. Weldon (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Politics* (p. 0). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199751457.013.0002>
- Cunningham, S. (2021). *Causal Inference: The Mixtape*. Yale University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1c29t27>
- Hawkesworth, M. (2013). Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: From Naturalized Presumption to Analytical Categories. In G. Waylen, K. Celis, J. Kantola, & S. L. Weldon (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Politics* (p. 0). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199751457.013.0001>

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- Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). Most people are not WEIRD. *Nature*, 466(7302), 29–29. <https://doi.org/10.1038/466029a>
- King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research, New Edition*. Princeton University Press.
- Krook, M. L., & Restrepo Sanín, J. (2020). The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment against Female Politicians. *Perspectives on Politics*, 18(3), 740–755. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592719001397>
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- Paxton, P., Kunovich, S., & Hughes, M. M. (2007). Gender in Politics. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33(Volume 33, 2007), 263–284.
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.33.040406.131651>
- Pepinsky, T. B. (2019). The Return of the Single-Country Study. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22(Volume 22, 2019), 187–203.
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051017-113314>
- Pitkin, H. F. (1967). *The Concept of Representation*. University of California Press.
- Wolkenstein, F., & Wratil, C. (2021). Multidimensional Representation. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(4), 862–876. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12563>