

**Oct. 6**

1. Intersectionality
2. Interactional sociology
3. Status and boundaries

# Intersectionality

# Intersectionality

## What is your ethnic group?

-- Please select --

Prefer not to say

White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

Asian / Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

African

Caribbean

Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

Arab

Any other ethnic group

## Social categories

- ∴ Race, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality ...
- ∴ Central to sociological research
- ∴ Used to explain behavior, roles, etc.
- ∴ Key explanations of inequality and discrimination

## Often studied separately

- ∴ Social categories usually studied as separate topics.
- ∴ E.g. “Sociology of race and ethnicity”

## Intersectionality

- ∴ Intersectional sociology maintains that studying these topics separately means we will never have a full understanding of them

‘Ethnic group’ menu from <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk>

# Intersectionality

## Social categories are *not* independent

- ∴ “Rather than examining gender, race, class, and nation as distinctive social hierarchies, intersectionality examines how they mutually construct one another.”

Collins, Patricia Hill. “It’s All In the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation.” *Hypatia* 13, no. 3 (August 1998): 62–82.

## “Intersectionality”

- ∴ Term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the outcome of a workplace discrimination lawsuit

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. “Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics.” *u. Chi. Legal f.* (1989): 139.

## Intersectional analyses

- ∴ Look at the way that multiple, overlapping social categories affect a social outcome
- ∴ “The intersectional/interlocking nature of racism, sexism, classism, and colonialism compound the vulnerabilities faced by Aboriginal women in Canada.”

Gilchrist, Kristen. 2010. “‘Newsworthy’ Victims?” *Feminist Media Studies* 10 (4): 373–90.