

Socialization and gender

1. Administrative
2. Socialization
3. Socialization of gender roles

Worksheet deadline

- ∴ The *time of day* that the worksheets are due has been changed to **11:59pm (23h59)** to avoid confusion
- ∴ Due *dates* remain the same

Worksheet anonymity

- ∴ You should no longer put your names on the worksheets to maintain student anonymity in peer review
- ∴ We will still be able to see which group is which

Socialization



Learning culture

- ∴ *Non-material* culture (beliefs, practices, roles, behavior)
- ∴ *Material* culture (significance and use of tools, structures, objects)



Internalizing norms

- ∴ Unspoken and explicit rules of behavior
- ∴ Roles and responsibilities become “natural”



Developing self

- ∴ Negotiating one's place in society (roles, relationships, appropriate behavior)
- ∴ Constructing identity in relation to society





Childhood development

- ∴ The bulk of socialization occurs while one is “growing up”
- ∴ Theories of socialization tend to focus on birth through teenage years

Psychological theories

- ∴ Focus on developmental phases of relations, emotions, etc.
(Freud, Erikson, Kohlberg, ...)

Sociological theories

- ∴ Focus on social expectations and roles
(Cooley, Mead, ...)
- ∴ Looking-glass self (Cooley)
- ∴ Roles as relations

Symbolic interactionism

- ∴ Focus on roles, situated sense of self, and the generalized other
- ∴ Tightly linked to theories of childhood development

SOCIALIZATION OF PERCEPTION

Socialization shapes our fundamental experience of the world around us

Cognition

- ∴ *Spatial understanding*
- ∴ *Color categories*
- ∴ *Numerical reasoning*
- ∴ *Musical harmony*



Judgement

- ∴ *Fairness*
- ∴ *Disgust*
- ∴ *Beauty*



Communication

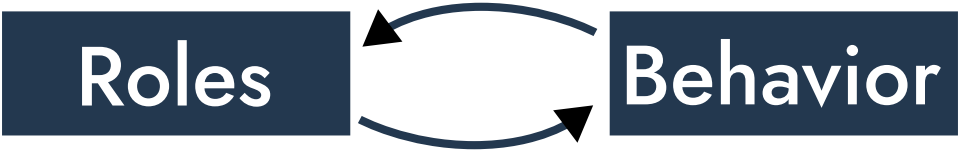
- ∴ *Spoken/written language*
- ∴ *Body language*
- ∴ *Facial expressions*





Roles shape expectations

- ⋮ Often it is not a question of general behavior.
“What is the right/wrong way to behave?”
- ⋮ Instead, a question of role-specific behavior.
“What is the right/wrong way for *people like me* to behave?”
- ⋮ Moreover, role-specific behavior is sensitive to situational context.
“What is the right/wrong way for *people like me* to behave toward *people like you*?”



Reflexivity

- ⋮ Behavior is prescribed by situated roles
- ⋮ Roles are defined by characteristic behavior

Socialization of gender roles



Gender vs sex

- ∴ “Sex” and “gender” are commonly used interchangeably, but social scientists (and increasingly others) draw a distinction
- ∴ Sex tends to be physiologically defined
Genome; hormones; genitalia; reproductive role; secondary characteristics
- ∴ **Gender based on roles, expectations, behavior**
Social aspects of the gendered division of society:
Clothing; mannerisms; language; values; interests; ...

Sex–gender link

- ∴ Sex and gender are closely linked, in particular (but certainly not exclusively) in Western societies
- ∴ Children are most often gendered before or at the moment of birth based on visual determination of their genitals or chromosomal analysis
Ambiguities often surgically “corrected” immediately after birth
- ∴ One-to-one link between sex and gender is a social construction



Criteria for sex determination are neither *unambiguous* nor *consistent*:

Genitalia

- ∴ About one in 1,500–2,000 humans is born with ambiguous genitalia
- ∴ About one in 500–1,000 receive “corrective” surgery at birth

Chromosomes

- ∴ Many more than two possibilities (XX or XY)
- ∴ Frequently does not match lived experience

Hormone levels

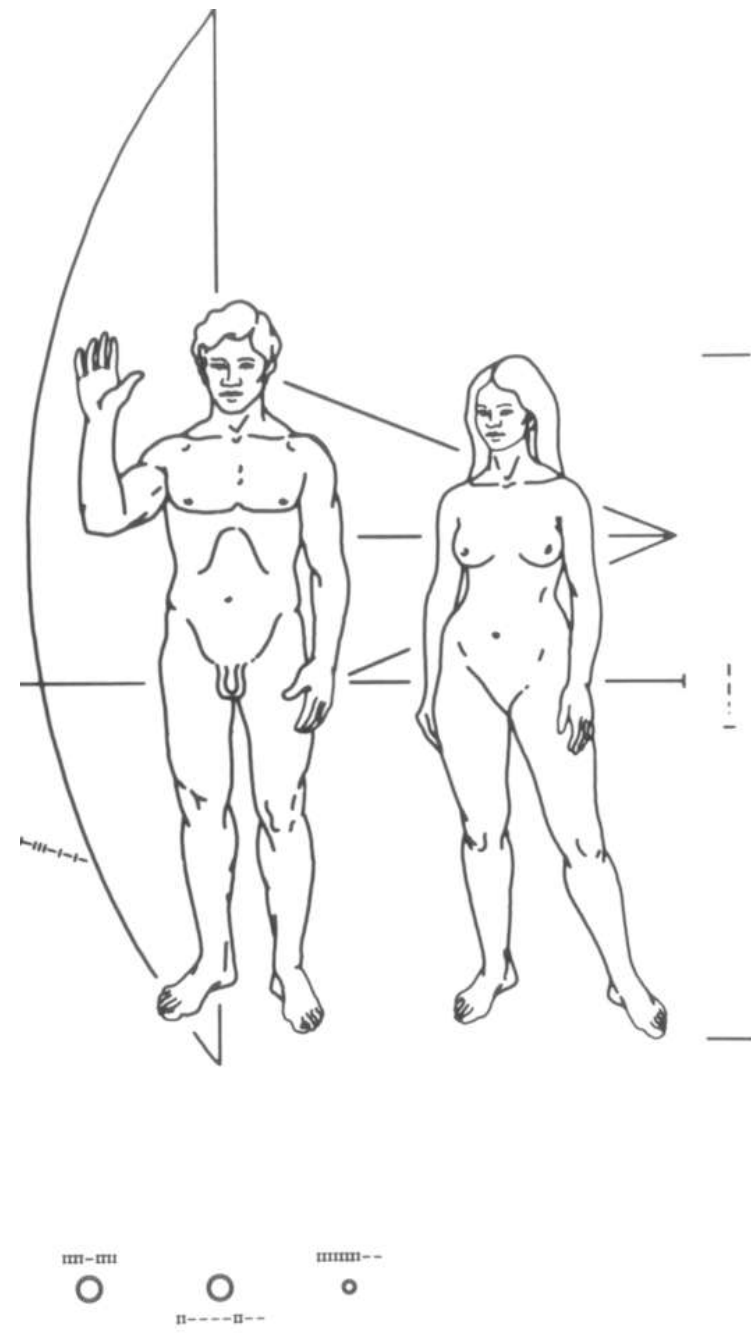
- ∴ Arbitrary and contradictory

Secondary sex characteristics

- ∴ *De facto* standard of sex determination
- ∴ Also ambiguous

Reproductive role

- ∴ Many people cannot reproduce regardless of sex (e.g. children)
- ∴ Mutable





Gender is among the most overtly

socialized institutions

- ∴ “Primary cultural frame” (Cecilia Ridgeway)

Frames allow us to negotiate situations in everyday interactions and relations

- ∴ Gender is present in virtually every domain

Language, sexuality, employment, education, finance, ...

Gendered socialization of children

- ∴ Begins very early, often before birth

Gender reveal parties, nursery/clothing colors, names, ...

- ∴ By age three, most children can identify gender in photographs and engage in gendered play

Gender identity based on clothing/behavior rather than sexual characteristics

- ∴ Boy/girl divide present in children’s preferences, behavior, and social structures

Gender role reinforcement in children

- ∴ Toys and marketing
- ∴ Clothing and marketing
- ∴ School dress codes
- ∴ Language used to talk to and about children
 - “Boys will be boys” “sugar and spice” “pretty” “brave”
- ∴ Media representations



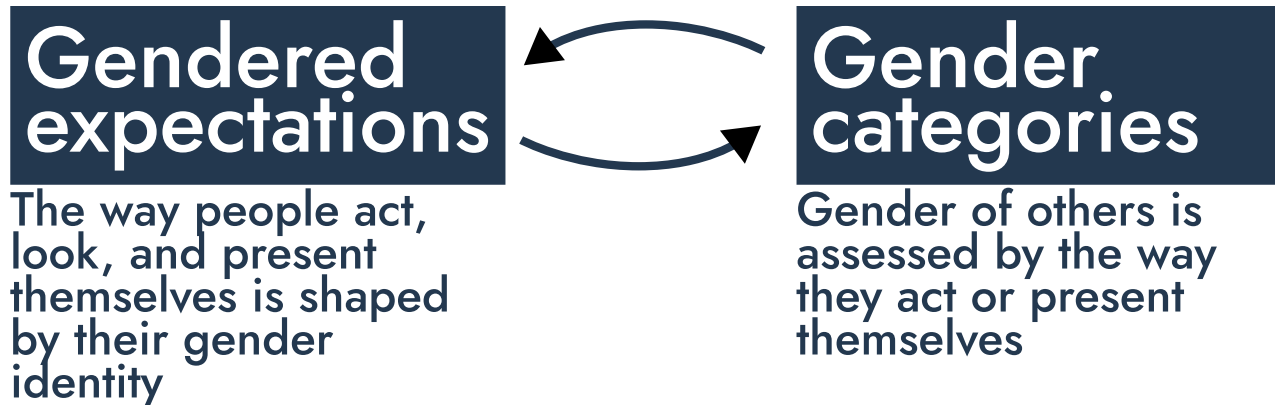
Role modeling

- ∴ Interactionist framework: children learn about gender roles by watching the behavior of others
- ∴ “...nearly half of all three- to six-year-old girls worry about being fat”

Bloom, Lisa. “How to Talk to Little Girls.” Huffington Post (blog), June 22, 2011.

Reflexivity of gendered socialization

- ∴ Gender categories and gendered expectations mutually reinforce one another



“Doing gender”

- ∴ Gender categories are maintained by relying on gender distinctions to selectively enforce gendered presentation

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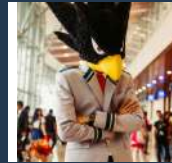


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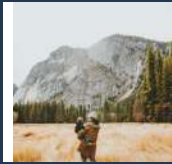


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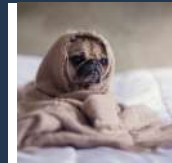


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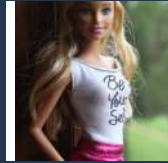


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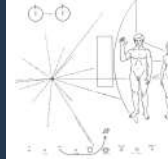


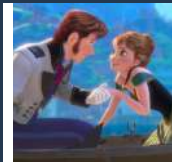
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