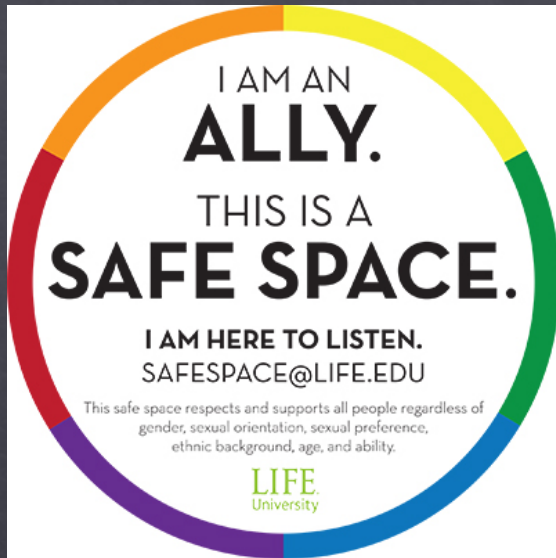




Intersectionality and Feminist Standpoint Theory

Researcher Bias, Critical Theory, Positionality, and Representation



Overview of Day 1

1. Identity Activity

2. Discussion of readings and activity

3. Presentation on Intersectional and Feminist Standpoint Theory

4. Implementation of ideas and theories

Note: We will have 5 minute breaks throughout the session.

Identity Activity:

Overview: This activity is meant to highlight issues of identity and help better understand intersectionality as it relates to identity and lived experiences. For this activity I will be reading off a series of questions regarding an identity. Please choose the answer that you feel best answers the question. Please only pick one identity even if you feel like more than one works for the answer. We will unpack this later in the activity. Overall, this activity is meant to understand each others' experiences and to reflect on how we all have similar or different experiences rooted in our identities or experiences of them. We will have a debrief after this activity.

Identity Activity- Questions:

1. The part of my identity that I am most aware of on a daily basis is_____.
2. The part of my identity that I am least aware of on a daily basis is_____.
3. The part of my identity that is most emphasize or important in my family group is/was_____.
4. The part of my identity that I wish I knew more about is_____.
5. The part of my identity that provides me the most privilege is_____.
6. The part of my identity that I believe is the most misunderstood by others is_____.
7. The part of my identity that I feel is difficult to discuss with others who identify differently is_____.
8. The part of my identity that makes me feel discriminated against is_____.

Identity Activity- Debrief

- ◇ 1. How did this activity make you feel? What did you notice?
- ◇ 2. What did you like about this activity? What didn't you like?
- ◇ 3. What did you notice about the way that people answered that struck you?
- ◇ 4. Were there any identity categories that you wanted to discuss but we did not?
- ◇ 5. Anything else you'd like to add before we move on?

Reading Discussion Activity:

Overview: This activity is a guided look at the three key articles posted in the google doc: 1. Mapping the Margins, Intersectionality- The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory, and Feminist Standpoint Theory- The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory. We will also discuss the critical realist paper if there is time- if not we will be discussing this on Thursday. We will start with the mapping the margins paper, then the intersectionality handbook definition, and end with the feminist standpoint theory article. Smirity will be taking notes on a google doc in response to answers.

For the first part of this activity take a few minutes to identify a passage of the text that you really liked, disliked, or was really interested in. Identify and discuss with the group.

Second, we will have a general discussion.

Last, we will debrief and identify key themes and aspects of the readings.

Reading Discussion Activity – General Discussion Questions

1. What are the key points of the article?
2. What are some lingering questions? What do you wish to see addressed or addressed differently?
3. What were your favorite parts? Why?
4. What were your least favorite parts? Why?
5. What did you like about the article?
6. What did you dislike about the article?
7. What do you agree with? What do you disagree with?
8. Any last questions or concerns?

Intersectionality

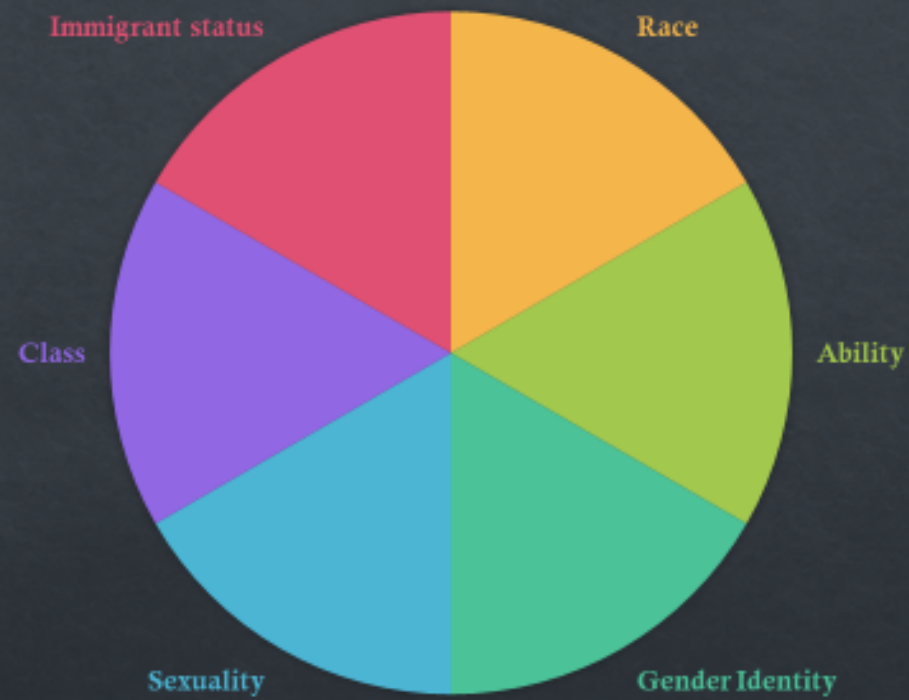
Intersectionality-> Definitions

- ◇ Merriam-Webster Definition: “the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.”
- ◇ 3 Kinds:
 - i. **Structural:** “the ways in which location of women of color at the intersection of race and gender makes our actual experience of domestic violence, rape, and remedial reform qualitatively different than that of white women.”
 - ii. **Political:** identity politics and the politicization of identity
 - iii. **Representational:** the cultural construction of women of color, and thus a source of intersectional disempowerment.

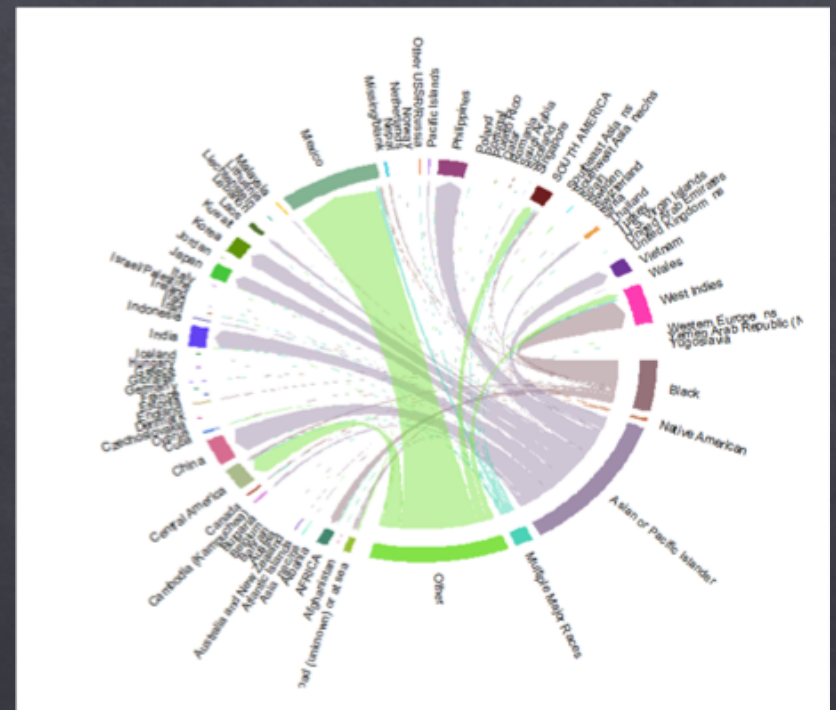
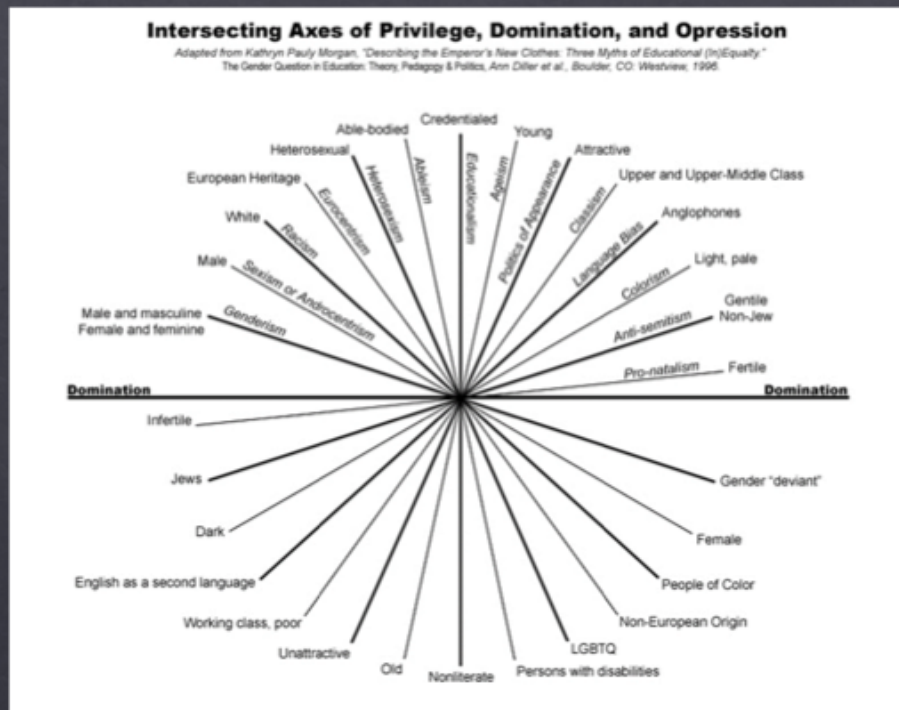
Intersectionality Discussion Questions:

- ◆ Identify a key passage or instance of the text that struck you.
- ◆ Have you witnessed an instance of intersectionality? Describe the experience?
- ◆ Have you, yourself experienced intersectionality? Describe that experience?
- ◆ What is your understanding of intersectionality?
- ◆ What was really confusing about the readings?
- ◆ How can we apply intersectionality to the article in the frame of dis/ability? What examples of participants can we use?

INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITY



Using Data Visualization to Express Intersectionality



Dartmouth Study using Digital Representations of Intersectionality:
<https://journeys.dartmouth.edu/censushistory/2016/11/03/the-intersectional-landscape-of-sex-race-and-immigration-in-the-united-states-1930-2000/>

Ideas for Implementing Intersectionality

Overview: Let's brainstorm some ideas for the implementation of this theory in the study!

Here are some general areas of the study that could be made better with extended theoretical engagement:

- ◆ Data visualization techniques
- ◆ Positionality Statements
- ◆ Analysis of data and discussion of participants, experiences,

In Summary:

Diversity asks: Who's in the room?

Equity responds: Who's trying to get in the room but can't, and whose presence in the room is under constant threat of erasure?

Inclusion asks: Has everyone's ideas been heard?

Justice responds: Whose ideas won't be taken seriously because they aren't in the majority.

Intersectionality responds/asks: _____?

Feminist Standpoint Theory:

Feminist Standpoint Overview:

“Thus, contemporary standpoint theorists have acknowledged that for the view to be successful, the theory must better articulate the notion of a “standpoint” in a way that (1) does not essentialize women or oppressed groups, (2) clarifies the potential epistemic benefits while recognizing that such benefits are not automatic, (3) avoids a pernicious form of epistemological or moral relativism, and (4) resolves the tension between the claim that knowledge is somehow relative to a standpoint and the claim that some standpoints are better than others (Wylie 2003; Crasnow 2006; Rolin 2006; Harding 2008; Rolin 2009; Intemann 2010b).” — Intemann 2016.



Oppressed groups are frequently placed in the situation of being listened to only if we frame our ideas in the language that is familiar to and comfortable for a dominant group. This requirement often changes the meaning of our ideas and works to elevate the ideas of dominant groups.

— Patricia Hill Collins —

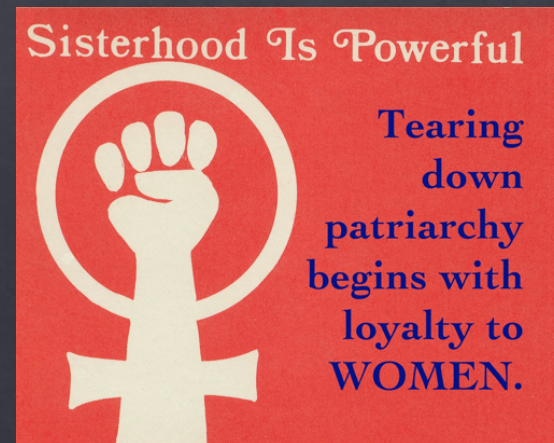
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Positionality:

- ◇ “Positionality is the notion that personal values, views, and location in time and space influence how one understands the world. In this context, gender, race, class, and other aspects of identities are indicators of social and spatial positions and are not fixed, given qualities. Positions act on the knowledge a person has about things, both material and abstract. Consequently, knowledge is the product of a specific position that reflects particular places and spaces.” (Sage Publication- <http://sk.sagepub.com/reference/geography/n913.xml>) .
- ◇ Related to humanizing and ethical research and is mixing standpoint theory, intersectionality, and elements of critical race and postcolonialism. It is essential to qualitative research.

Upliftment:

- Black feminist approach
- Using your privilege to support other women or minoritized peoples
- Stepping back and allowing voices who are overshadowed by yours to be emphasized and focused on.



Feminist Standpoint Theory Discussion:

- ◆ Identify a key passage or instance of the text that struck you.
- ◆ What are examples of researcher bias? How have they negatively impacted studies?
- ◆ What are the key elements of feminist standpoint theory? How can we implement them into our study?
- ◆ What is positionality? Give an example.
- ◆ What is upliftment? Give an example.
- ◆ What was confusing or unclear about the text?
- ◆ What was impactful and helpful in the text?

Critical Realist Theory

1. How does the article define critical realist theory?

- ◆ “a multi-layered and interactional conceptualization of dis/ability” ;
- ◆ heterogenous assemblage of theories and perspectives
- ◆ How do we define this principle based off the reading?
- ◆ Echoes Marxist, poststructural/postmodernism,

1. What are the key ideas represented in the article?

- ◆ “a multi-layered and interactional conceptualization of dis/ability” ;
- ◆ Efforts to “do good” by Assistive Technology are misleading and do not represent the multiplicit realities of dis/ability identity and experience
- ◆ There is no “right problem” to tackle
- ◆ Technology is contributing to new experiences of knowing and being (cyborg feminism)*
- ◆ Social creationist vs. social constructionist- materialist approach
- ◆ Biological determinism vs. cultural dis/ability
- ◆ Intransitive objects and transitive objects
- ◆ “Technology use does not happen in a social vacuum”
- ◆ Challenges of a rigorous-or-relevant dichotomy
- ◆ Whole person and not just characteristics
- ◆ Out of the Box Methodologies
- ◆ Generating knowledge – have participant lead design process, socio-technical context, and assessing experience

Any Questions or Comments?