

Lecture #19 –Fall 2010–

Gender, Sexuality and Reproduction; Gender and Work

Gender, Sexuality and Reproduction

1. Beyond Sexual and Gender Binaries:

Conceptions of a Sexual Continuum from Homosexuality to Heterosexuality:
Transgender and Queer Theory as Critiquing Gender Polarization and
Heterocentricity/Heteronormativity; Unpacking the “Backpack of Privilege”

2. **Sexual/Gender Rights Discourse-** Right to decide on one’s own sex/gender,
marry a partner of either sex, control reproduction, parenting rights

3. **Reproduction and Gender Equality:** Discourses of Reproductive Rights-
Issues of Class, Race/Ethnicity

3. Sexuality, Technology and Reproduction: Contemporary Debates

- a. Is menstruation a barrier to gender equality? Reducing or eliminating the number of menstrual cycles in a woman’s lifetime through oral contraception
- b. Extending the biological clock for women over 50?-Writing Exercise

Gender and Work

4.. Coming to Terms with the “Wage Gap”—

Explanatory factors: distinguishing “gender effects” from “gender bias”

5.. History of Female Labor Force Participation in the U.S.: Increasing labor force participation and labor force attachment since 1950

.6. Legal Protections: The Philosophy and Promise of EEO: Law as Mirror, Law as Tool (Equal Employment Opportunity: Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978) – Incremental legal protection

Title VII and the Women’s Rights Movement—

Expanding Definitions of Bias- Defining Sexual Harassment (1981)

Forms of Sexual Harassment- *quid pro quo*, “hostile work environment”

“Gray Area” Sexual Harassment Laws: A “chilling effect”?

The Problem of Unconscious and Subtle Bias; the “Glass Ceiling”

7. The “Feminization” of Jobs/Professions-Sex Segregation in the Labor Force;

Review: Essay #3 (Final Assignment)

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