

BASIC FACTS IN MASCULINITY AND FEMINISM

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INTRODUCTION

The sex/gender differences raises the issues of male - female; masculine and feminine, male associated with masculinity and female with femininity. With each construction the biological differences between men and women get translated into social terms and descriptions.

This presentation aims to explain what masculinity is, what feminism is and how they interact.

CONTENTS

- MASCULINITY
- FEMINISM
- HOW THE TWO INTERACT

MASCULINITY

- Is a set of attributes, behaviours and roles associated with boys and men

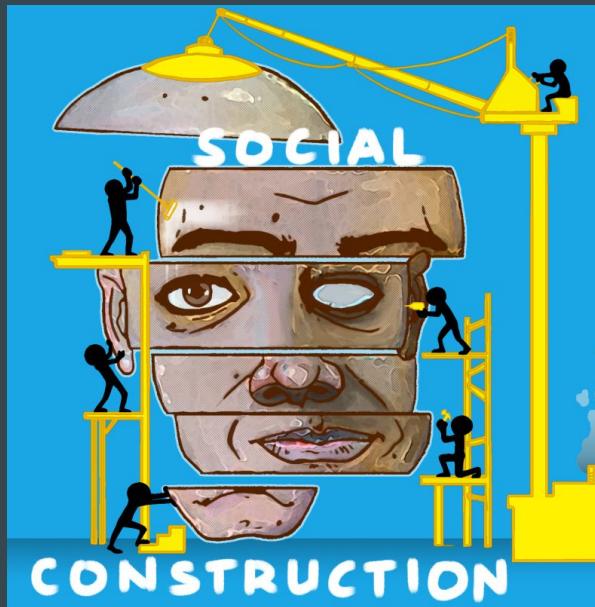


- Social construction

“One is not born a woman, but rather becomes a woman.” (Simone de Beauvoir)

Dominance approach

Cultural approach

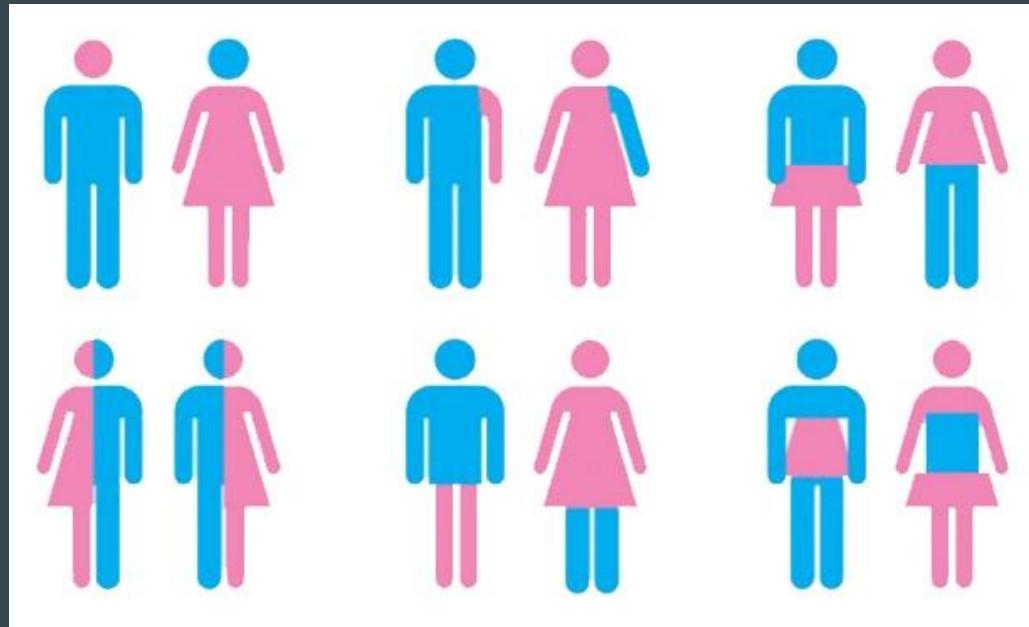


SUBJECT OF DEBATE

The concept of masculinity and femininity is needed in feminist discourses and writing to explain the differences between men and women. Some argue that these differences are based in their biology and some argue that they are socially constructed. Therefore the construction of men and masculinity will accrue exclusively to the bodies of males and the construction of women and femininity will accrue exclusively to the bodies of females.

Gender

The range of characteristics of masculinity and femininity.



- Boys (and girls) are born into roles
 - differs across different cultures and historical periods

Example: What masculinity is in Sweden differ from what it is in Iraq. And what was masculine in Iraq in the 1950s differs from masculinity in Iraq today.



- Traditional masculine traits
 - Strength, courage, independence, leadership
 - Times are shifting, women rise, the feminist movement is born



FEMINISM

- Social movements, political movements and ideologies
 - Aim: achieving political, economical, personal and social equality between the biological sexes.



- Campaigned and continue to campaign for:
 - right to vote, to work, own properties, receive education, enter contracts, equal rights within marriage, equal pay etc.



HOW MASCULINITY AND FEMINISM INTERACTS

- The social constructions of masculinity and femininity contain a hierarchy.

As earlier mentioned, the masculine traits are: Strength, courage, independence, leadership. As a contrary feminine traits are historically seen as the opposite. This is the hierarchy.



- Time passes, history is written and cultures shifts.
 - Women's voices were raised as a consequence of the hierarchy that the gender roles imply.
 - Feminism started to form.



SUMMARY

From the moment we are born we are expected to act, speak and be in certain ways depending on our biological sexes. Historically, as a man you are expected to be, among other things strong and financially independent. This is not a biological matter but one that is constructed by culture and societies. But as time has passed, women's place in society has broadened. This as a consequence of the feminist movement.

THANK YOU!