

STATUS, SEX, GENDER

Anthropology 1

- The process whereby individuals learn the appropriate behavior that allows them to be functioning members of a particular group, such as a family, work, or social group.
- Family is the main source of socialization.
- School follows as the next sphere of influence.

Socialization

- The particular patterns of social relationships that characterize a society

Social Structure

- Refers to the way in which individuals perceive the structure and context of any situation and make decisions and choices from among alternative choices of behavior.
- Refers to variations in individual behavior and emphasizes flux and change.

Social Organization

- Practice
 - the emphasis on individual choices and decisions.
- Agency
 - refers to the fact that individuals are active responders to their culture.

Note: the range of choices which people can choose from is always shaped by the social structure

Practice and Agency

- Social status
 - the culturally defined position or rank that a person occupies in a society; status is often based on relative honor, prestige or social standing.
- Social role
 - the culturally expected behavior associated with a status in a particular society.

Social Status & Roles

- Ascribed Status
 - A social status you are born into.
- Achieved Status
 - A social status attained through effort.

Status: Ascribed & Achieved

- Age
- Sex
- Gender
- Race
- Caste
- Socio-economic class
- Nationality
- Ethnicity
- Religion

Ascribed Status

- Marital
- Parental
- Education/Occupation
- Socio-economic class*
- Nationality (naturalization)*
- Ethnicity* (learning/becoming member of new culture)
- Religion* (Conversion)
- Sex* (Sex Reassignment)
- Gender* (Alternative cultural constructs)

Achieved Status

- Power and authority
- Access
- Inequality in society
- The degree to which a certain status is valued in society or not.

What can status indicate?

- Age and sex
 - most common basis for distinctions between social roles in a society
 - child/adult
 - husband/wife
 - mother-father/daughter-son
 - brother/sister

Age and Sex

- To study how age and sex status function in a society, we must examine (for example) how being 'old' is distinguished from being 'young' ; or how being 'male' is distinguished from being 'female' , etc.

Age and Sex

- Birth
- Adolescence to Adulthood
- Becoming a parent
- Middle Age
- Senior Years
- Death



AGE OR LIFE CYCLES

- Sex
 - biological differences between male and female (genitals, XX/XY, hormones)
- Sex Role
 - normative behavior patterns associated with a particular sex (male or female); sometimes used interchangeably with "gender role"

SEX

- Gender: the social and cultural classification of masculine and feminine.
- Gender Role: the culturally expectations of men/masculinity and women/femininity in a particular society. Can include such things as division of labor (men' s work/women' s work), dress, compoment, etc.

Gender

- The notion of 'gender' assumes that men and women are not born, they are made.
- The study of gender includes not just women, but also:
 - Men and masculinity
 - Alternative gender roles
 - Their corresponding social relations

Gender

Expressing Gender: Cultural Variations Exist



Wodaabe Men of Niger



Transvestism



- **Berdache**
 - formal status for males and females who undertook/undertake alternative gender roles in certain Native American/First Nations groups
- Connected with understandings of creation and spirituality that are dualistic not binary
- Two-spirit (contemporary expression): males who assume female roles; females who assume male roles



Native Berdache



- Hijra (India)
 - third gender
 - Most are physically male or intersex.
 - Dress and act as women
 - are neither truly male nor truly female.

Other examples

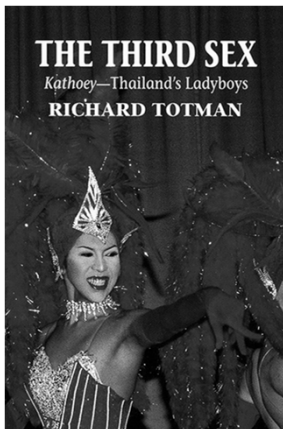
- Kathoey (Thailand)
 - originally male but who cross into the body, personality, and dress defined as female.
 - Flexible sexual orientation.
 - Surgical augmentation and alteration
 - Often work in sex trades or entertainment



Other examples

THE THIRD SEX

Kathoey—Thailand's Ladyboys
RICHARD TOTMAN



- Permissiveness or Restrictiveness?
 - Children's masturbation/sex play
 - Pre-marital sex
 - Extra-marital sex
 - Homosexuality
 - LGBTQ

CULTURAL REGULATIONS OF SEXUALITY

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