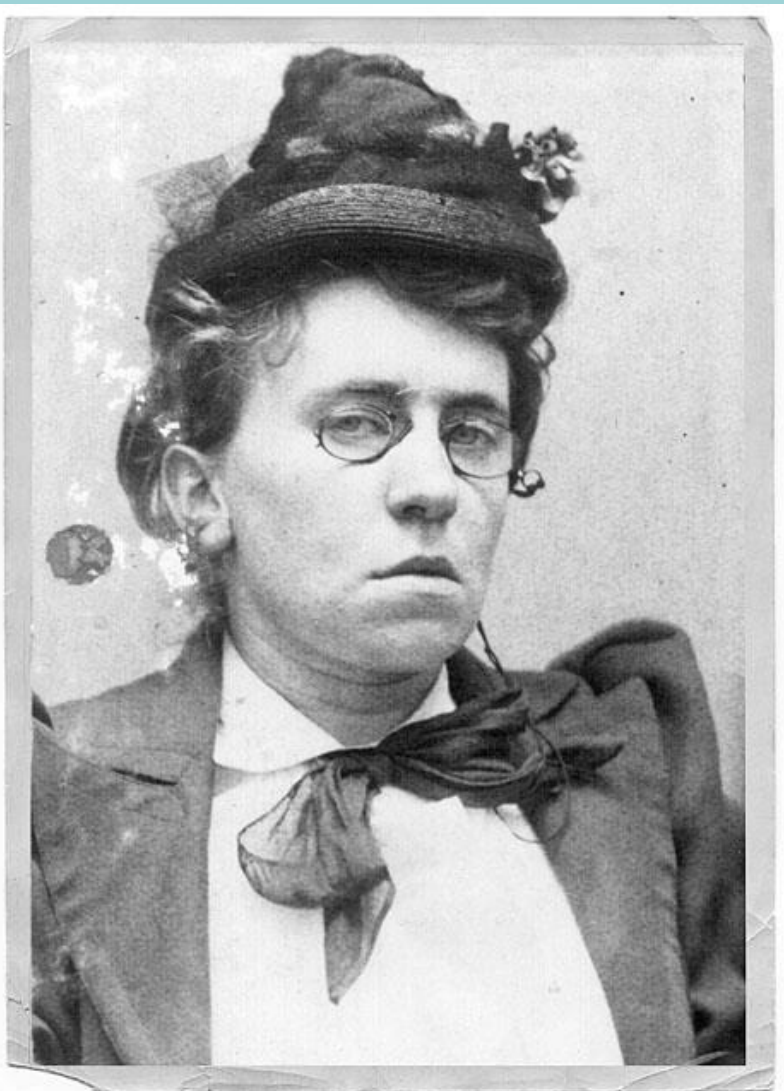


Feminism, Gender & Sexuality



Groups



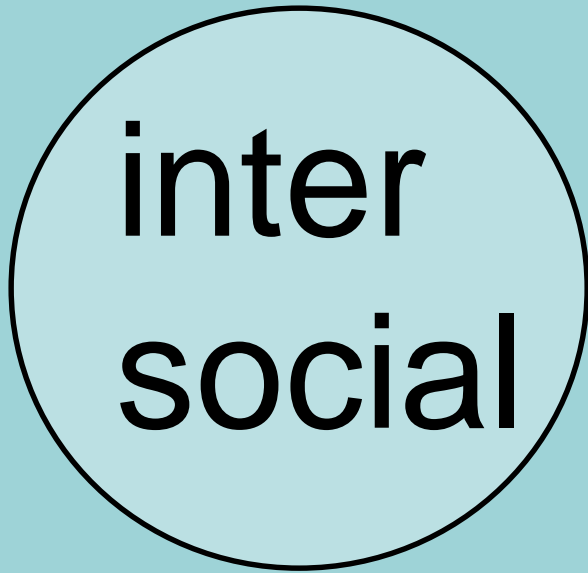
inter
social



extra
social

Groups

Every group
makes distinctions
within itself.



The War on Women



The War on Women



- Women scapegoated in late 16th century
- Their labor devalued
- Seen as corruptive force in society
- Reduced to solely reproductive function
- Formerly valued contributors to society



Gender & Cultural Difference

“Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?”

- Lila Abu-Lughod



Gender & Cultural Difference

- History of women being used towards colonial/political ends (Afghanistan, French Algiers, Turn-of-the-century Egypt).
- “White men saving brown women from brown men...”??? – Chakravorty
- English colonists in Egypt pointed to the veil as a sign of oppression but opposed women’s suffrage at home.

Gender & Cultural Difference

- **Overwhelming concern to liberate Afghan women from being forced to wear a veil (notably after 9/11)**
- **But little concern over empowering them through education.**

Hypocrisy?

- **Using women as symbols. Not giving them a voice.**

Gender & Cultural Difference

- Overwhelming concern to liberate women from being forced to wear headscarves

What about the oppression of women in areas in which we are not at war?

Hypocrisy?

- Using women as symbols. Not giving them a voice.

Gender & Cultural Difference



Stop the oppression of women in
the Islamic world: www.ishr.org



Gender & Cultural Difference

- The burqa has been noted as liberating by some, as it allows “portable seclusion” and the ability to leave the home.
- Burqa was so ubiquitous “that most women gave little thought to their meaning.”

Makes you question the ‘taken for granted’?

Gender & Cultural Difference

The burqa has been noted as liberating by some

“Veiling must not be confused with a lack of agency... They **decide** for whom they feel it is appropriate to veil.”

thought to their meaning.”

Makes you question the 'taken for granted'?

Gender & Cultural Difference

- The burqa has been noted as "liberating" as it allows "women to have a right to

You don't get to see my face!

- Burqa so ubiquitous "that most women gave little thought to their meaning."

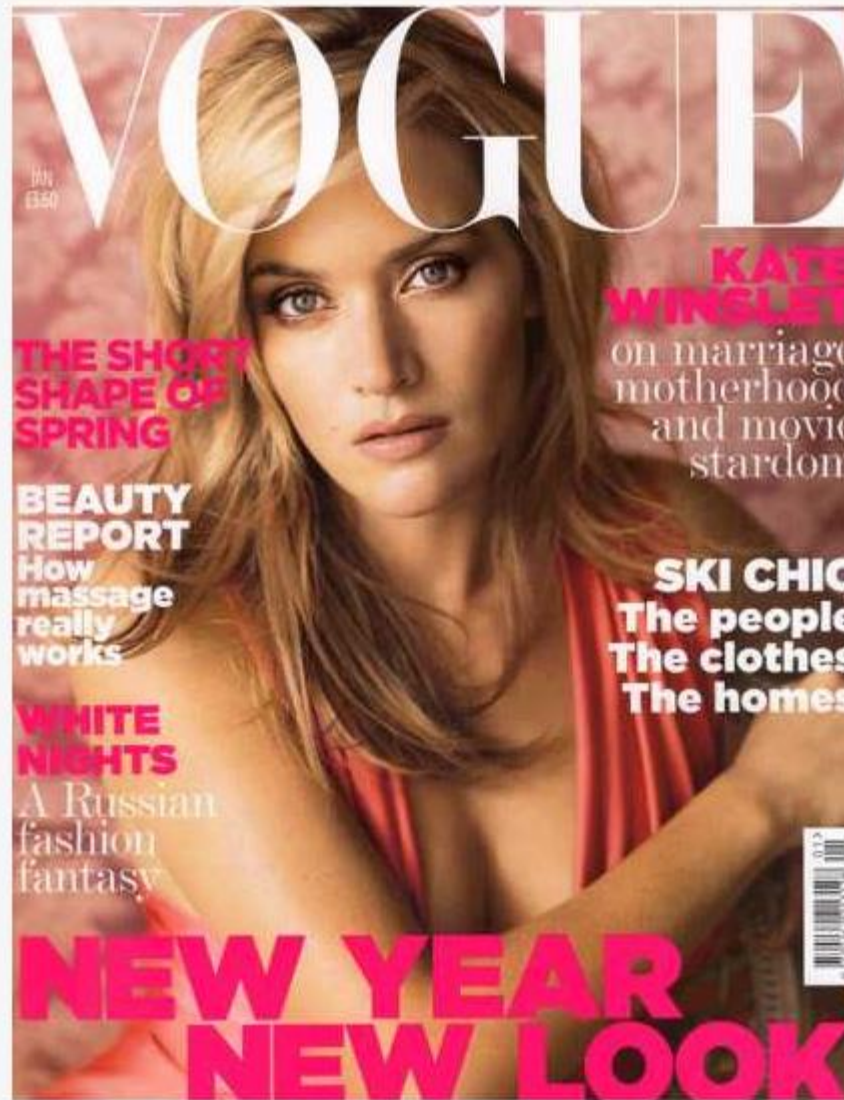
Makes you question the 'taken for granted'?

Gender & Cultural Difference

Do U.S. women have free choice regarding clothing?

“The tyranny of fashion”

Do U.S. wear
clothing?



ing

Gender & Cultural Difference

Does the liberation of Afghan women just mean making them like women in the U.S.?

Are liberating tendencies and Westernization necessarily associated?

Is the desire for liberation itself historically situated? – A product of the post-Enlightenment world?

Cultural Difference

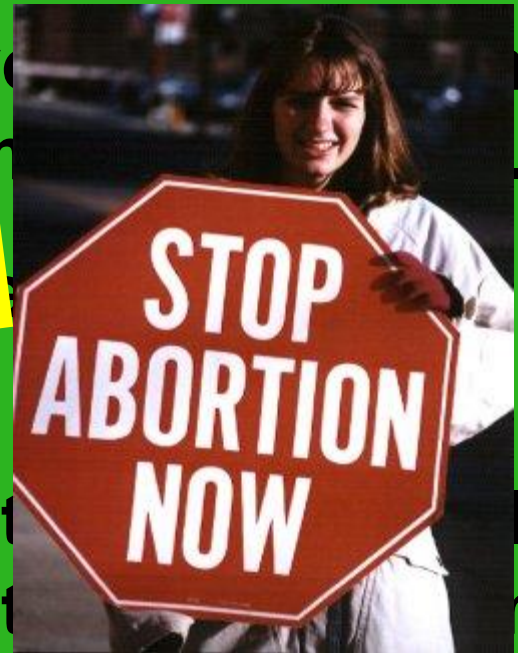
What does
mean?

Structural Violence

Does th

Afghan wo
making them like wo

???



Gender & Cultural Difference

What does salvation mean?

**Are concepts like solidarity,
alliance, coalition, empathy more
useful?**

Structure v. Agency



What category does the wearing of the veil among certain groups of Islamic women fall under?

Structure v. Agency

Should anthropologists advocate against the wearing of the veil because it is a structural oppression that Muslim women ‘think’ they are doing voluntarily, but are actually forced into doing it by the structure of their society?

OR

Should anthropologists respect the wearing of the veil as a cultural difference unique to non-Western societies? And respect that social actors are capable of drawing their own conclusions?

Structure v. Agency

If anthropologists pursue the first, are they hubristically over-estimating their ability to understand a population better than it understands itself? Not being sensitive to how other cultures developed, and enforcing their world view on a culture?

OR

If they choose the second option are we approaching the slippery slope of cultural relativism that looks the other way at practices such as coerced female circumcision, ritual suicide, cult behavior. Are these just “cultural differences” or structural forms of oppression?

Structure v. Agency



ANSWERS???

There isn't a good one. Yet...

Waves of Feminism

First Wave:

- Late 19th / Early 20th centuries.
- Concerned with women's suffrage (the right to vote).
- Gaining equality in access to political and economic power. Aligned with abolitionist (anti-slavery) and racial equality movements.
- (Ironically) Large percentage of early feminists were “social conservatives” that wanted to gain the right to vote to push through Prohibition (anti-drinking) legislation. This was seen as a way to strengthen women's position in relationships with alcohol dependent partners.
- “Social conservatives,” anarchists and socialists in common cause.

Waves of Feminism

Second Wave:

- **Begins in 1960s**
- **More concerned with family structure, women's reproductive rights, workplace equality, equal access to education.**
- **Women's Liberation Movement (Women's Lib).**
- **Equal Rights Amendment – Not passed.**
- **Opposed out of fears of women being drafted into the military.**
- **Feminism singular**

Waves



A vintage advertisement for Kellogg's PEP cereal. It features a man in a suit and a woman in a dark dress with a white apron. The man is saying, "SO THE HARDER A WIFE WORKS, THE CUTER SHE LOOKS!" Below this is a smaller comic-style illustration of the same couple. The man says, "GOSH, HONEY, YOU SEEM TO THRIVE ON COOKING, CLEANING AND DUSTING - AND I'M ALL TUCKERED OUT BY CLOSING TIME. WHAT'S THE ANSWER?" The woman replies, "VITAMINS, DARLING! I ALWAYS GET MY VITAMINS". In the bottom left corner, there is a box of Kellogg's PEP cereal with the text "VITAMINS FOR PEP! PEP FOR VITAMINS!*" and "100% WHOLE WHEAT FLAKES".

A vintage advertisement for Adland Mad Men. It features a close-up of a woman's face with a surprised expression. She is holding a bottle of Adland Mad Men. The text says, "You mean a woman can open it...?" In the bottom right corner, there is a small red box with the text "ADLAND MAD MEN".

Waves of Feminism

Third Wave:

- Early 1990s
- Focus on media portrayal, perception, language, stereotypes of women.
- Acknowledgement of heterogeneity (diversity) of women – “woman” is not a single static category with properties that can be applied to all women.
- Incorporates wider views on the concept of gender.
- Critiqued for a lack of focus. Too post-modern?
- Feminisms plural

Contemporary Concerns

Subtle forms of sexual oppression:

- **The price of birth control options, and assumed responsibility of female partner.**
- **Hegemonic interpretations of beauty – Photoshop ideals.**
- **Subtle oppression of having resistance being the only access to power.**
- **Conformity for security.**

Contemp

LANCÔME
PARIS

Subtle form

- The price of birth responsibility of



community for security.

Contemporary Concerns

Emancipated self-identification?

Are we the authors of our own identities?

If not, should we have the right to be?

Should economic equality really be sought under an inherently exploitative system?

Contemporary Concerns

The Male Gaze?

Gaze Theory?



Contemporary Concerns

The Male Gaze?

Gaze Theory?

“The anxious state that comes with the awareness that one is being viewed. The psychological effect is that the subject loses a degree of autonomy upon realizing that he or she is a visible object.”

- Lacan

Contemporary Concerns

The Male Gaze?

Gaze Theory?

“The passive role of women in film and media provides visual pleasure through voyeurism and identification with the on-screen male actor. In their traditional exhibitionist role women are simultaneously looked at and displayed, with their appearance coded for strong visual and erotic impact so that they can be said to connote *to-be-looked-at-ness*.”

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

“I’m not a feminist, but I do believe in equal pay and access to economic opportunities for men and women, and I believe that women should have reproductive freedom, etc...”

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

“Despite increasing support for many feminist ideals, negative sentiments toward the label ‘feminist’ remain strong, and many individuals who embrace seemingly feminist positions nonetheless deny they are feminists.”

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

“I’m not a republican, but I do believe that immigration should be restricted, abortion should be illegal, etc...”

“I’m not an environmentalist, but I do believe that we should cap carbon emissions, and we should only use renewable resources, etc...”

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

What influences how we self-identify?

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

What influences how we self-identify?

Gender

Race

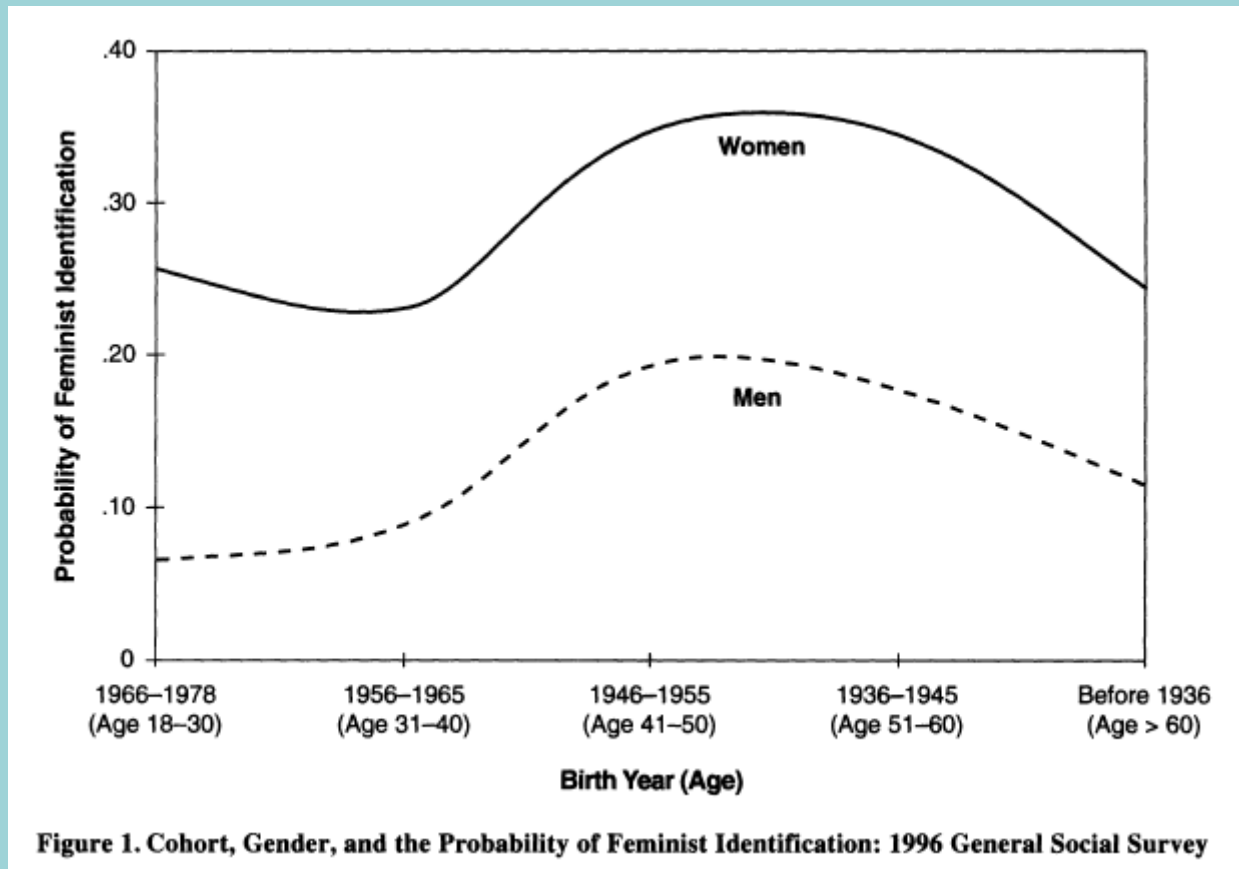
Education

Income

Generation

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

What influences how we self-identify?



“I’m not a feminist, but...”

What influences how we self-identify?

**Feminist identification peaks in 60s &
early 70s...**

Do young people not identify with the label because rights won during this period make feminist ideas seem taken for granted?

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Feminism (as an identity) does not provide clarity?

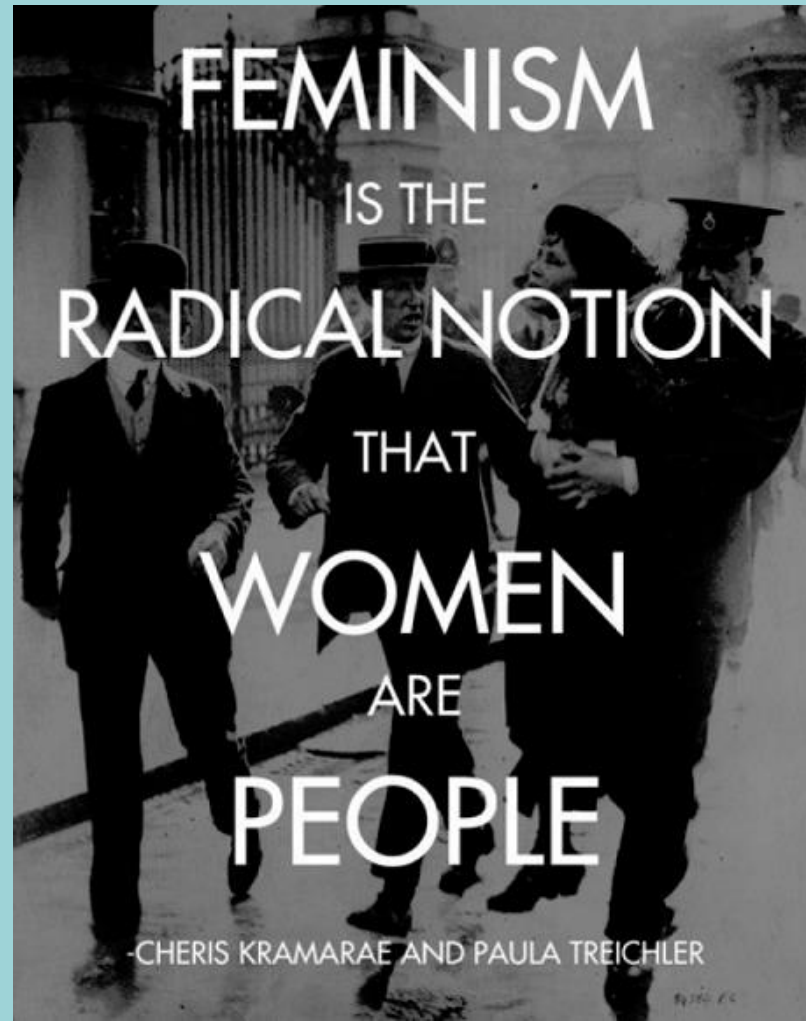


I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a door mat or a prostitute.

(Rebecca West)

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Feminism (as an identity) does not provide clarity?



“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Feminism (as an identity) does not provide clarity?

“I don't know why people are so reluctant to say they're feminists. Could it be any more obvious that we still live in a patriarchal world when feminism is a bad word?”

- Ellen Page



“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Feminism (as an identity) does not provide clarity?

Feminism celebrates difference, diversity, and heterogeneity.

Because of this, the term can also be co-opted by people and causes that paint the concept in a negative light.

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Feminism (as an identity) does not provide clarity?

????????

**s difference,
heterogeneity.**

Because of this, the term can also be co-opted by people and causes that paint the concept in a negative light.

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

What is feminism NOT...?

...The idea that women are better than men.

...The idea that women want to oppress men.

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Do some people not feel comfortable calling themselves feminists because they are not actively politically engaged?



“I’m not a feminist, but...”

**Are all ‘republicans’ or
‘democrats’ activists?**



“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Can feminism be a counter to the default, taken-for-granted masculinism of the society we live in?

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Can feminism be a counter to the default, taken-for-granted masculinism of the society we live in?

Masculinist society values accumulation, dominance & extraction?

Feminist society values nurturing, empathizing & integrating?

“I’m not a feminist, but...”

Can feminism be a counter to the default, taken-for-granted masculinism of the society we live in?

Note: spellcheck does not recognize these words.

Masculinist society values accumulation, dominance & extraction?

Feminist society values nurturing, empathizing & integrating?

Women in the workplace!?!?

“The increase in the number of married women (and mothers in particular) who work outside the home is one of the most startling social changes in American history.”

- 1965

Women in the workplace!?!?

“The increase in the number of married women (and mothers in particular) who work outside the home is one of the most startling soci

Really?

y.”

Women in the workplace!?!?

**Why did/have women entered the
work force?**

Choice!

Necessity?

Women in the workplace!?!?

Why did/have women entered the work force?

Choice!

- Independence
- Autonomy

Necessity?

- Economic hardship
- Growth of economy

Women in the workplace!?!?

Why did/have women entered the work force?

Choice!

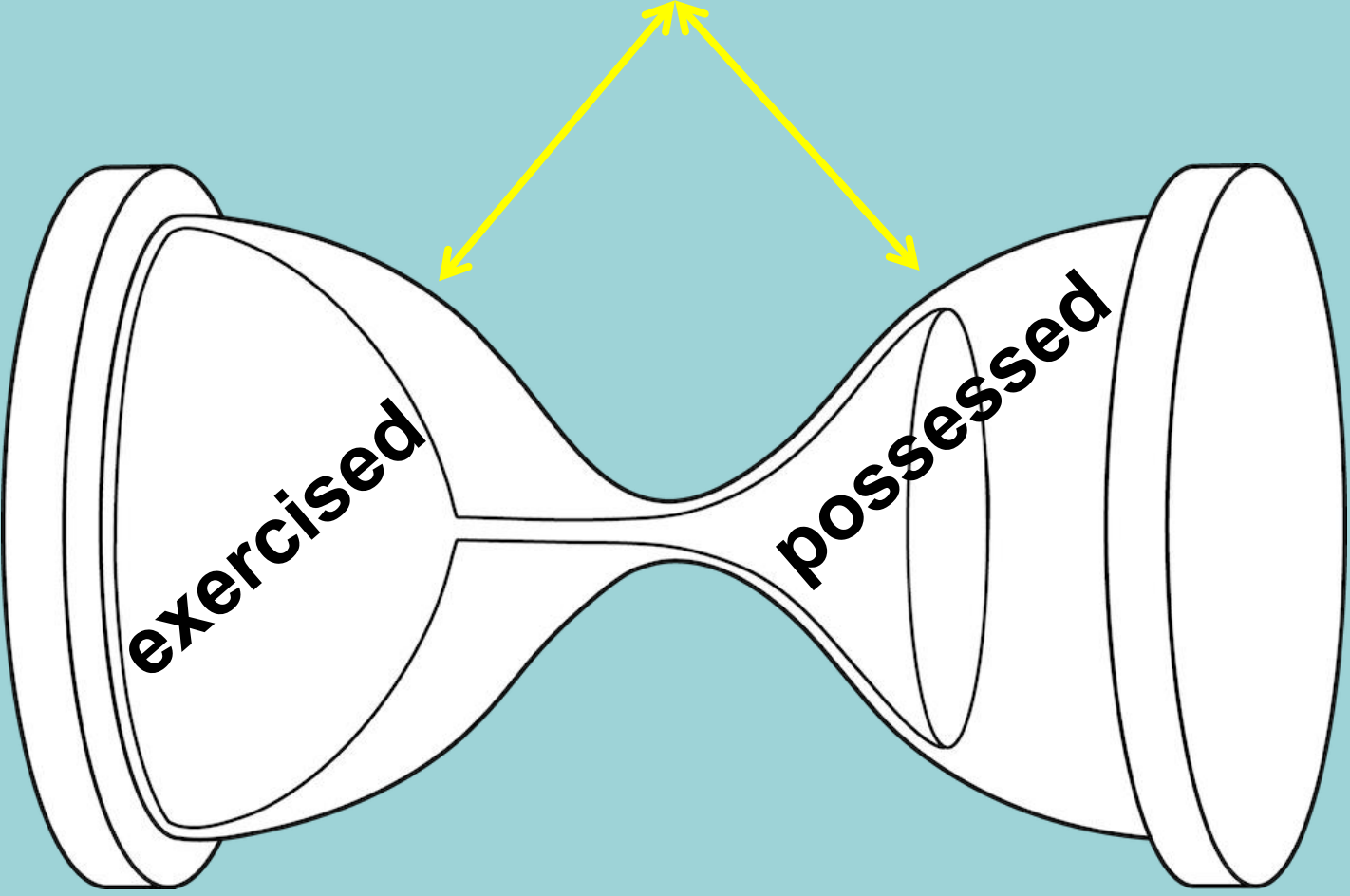
-Independence
-Autonomy

“Production for use (as opposed to exchange) is by definition unpaid labor – this automatically places women in a subordinate position.”

Necessity?

economic hardship
of economy

POWER



Gender in Society

Media
&
Control



הקודקודיות
הנשים הבכירות בצה"ל
התכנסו לשיחה משותפת



לי
מונות
בצה"ל
נבחרות המונעלות

“Combat Cuties?”



במחנה
חגית בשי
לגילין מצורף
מוסף נשים מעמד

מחנה
דואר 3590 יבנה 4
מחנה

מהשבוע מדור חדש:
בית שוי
58 עמ'

רצועה הדוקה

“Combat Cuties?”

What is equality?

Is it possible?

How is it inhibited?

Do we want it?

“Combat Cuties?”

**Is the deployment of women
into combat a step toward
greater equality in gender
relations?**

“Combat Cuties?”

Is the deployment of women into combat a step toward

equality for women?

Yes. “It is women’s right and even responsibility to perform martial service, because the military is the essential condition for full citizenship and thus equality.”

“Combat Cuties?”

Is the deployment of women
into combat a step toward

No. “The military’s use of violence is
associated with the culture of virulent
masculinity that depends on the
oppression of women. Militarism
fundamentally impedes justice and
equality.”

“Combat Cuties?”

**What do you
think?**

**masculinity that depends on the
oppression of women. Militarism
fundamentally impedes justice and
equality.”**

“Combat Cuties?”

**Why do you
think that?**

**masculinity that depends on the
oppression of women. Militarism
fundamentally impedes justice and
equality.”**

“Combat Cuties?”

**Representing female
soldiers...**

במחנה

מוסף נשים במדים • מאוס 2008



הקודקודיות
הנשים הבכירות בצה"ל
התכנסו לשיחה משותפת



מבט נשי

חיילות מצלמות: הצצה לתמונות
נבחרות המתעדות הווי נשי בצה"ל

Staged Photo

Smiling

Make-up

No background

Not serious

Not “masculine”

Sexualized?

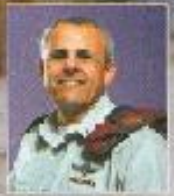


במחנה

השבועון של צה"ל



לביטול מוצרף
תוסף נשים מיעוד



החזמתו של ג'רי
פנור 38



17 | 10 | 2006 | 12932 | המחיר: 10 ש"ח



מהשבוע מדור חדש:
בית שני



56 מח

רצועה הדוקה

‘Live-action’ Photo

Intense

‘Finger on the trigger’

Specific setting

Serious

“Masculine”

Violent?



“Combat Cuties?”

Military service for all Israeli citizens is mandatory.

Is this a sign of equality?

“Some of the best soldiers wear lipstick.”

Women soldiers “fighting” public relations battle?

“Combat Cuties?”

...Representing War

Women are only shown as peripheral.

**This perpetuates the idea that war is
the exclusive domain of men.**

**Showing the effects of war on women
would shatter this illusion?**

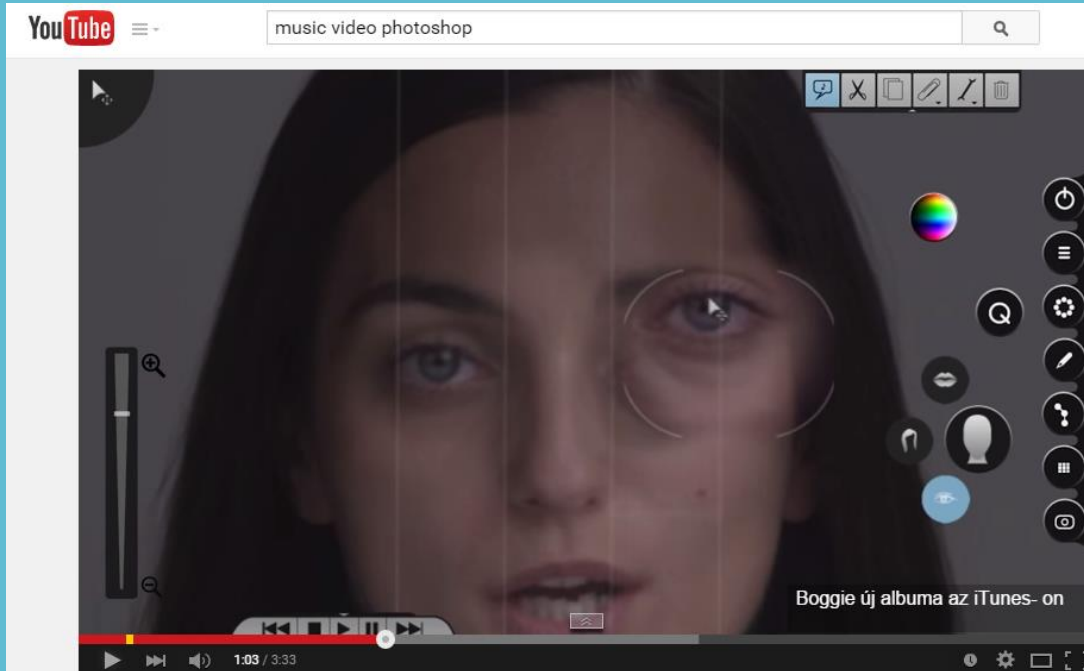
“Combat Cuties?”

News is not non-fiction.

News stories conform to pre-conceived narratives.

Photography is not an objective depiction of reality.

“Combat Cuties?”



ANSWERS???

There isn't a good one. Yet...

SITUATED KNOWLEDGE?

CYBORGS?

ANSWERS???

Situated Knowledge

(Donna Haraway)

- Breaks down bounded categories
- Privileges the local over the universal
- Is insatiably curious
- Allows for surprises at the heart of knowledge production
- Is 'somewhere', as opposed to 'everywhere' or 'nowhere'
- Knowledge has agency, it's not passive
- We don't learn about the world by 'discovering' it, but through conversation
- The world has a sense of humor
- The body is an agent, not a resource

ANSWERS???

Cyborg Feminism and Situated Knowledge **(Donna Haraway)**

Cyborg identity exposes ways that things considered natural, like human bodies, are not natural, but constructed by our ideas about them. Women are often discussed or treated in ways that reduce them to bodies. This leads to an over-naturalization process in the actions and behavior of women.

When we talk about objectifying women, we are talking about taking their agency away and reducing them to a static predictable object without a dynamic personality capable of change. And when a woman inevitably does not conform to this static projection that has been placed upon them, they are called “crazy” or “hysterical”.

ANSWERS???

Cyborg Feminism and Situated Knowledge (Donna Haraway)

Cyborg identity expresses a way of thinking that is not like human thinking. It is a way of thinking that is not about them. We are not trying to reduce them to a static predictable object without a dynamic personality capable of change. And when a women inevitably does not conform to this static projection that has been placed upon them, they are called “crazy” or “hysterical”.

cray-cray?

When we talk about objectifying women, we are talking about taking their agency away and reducing them to a static predictable object without a dynamic personality capable of change. And when a women inevitably does not conform to this static projection that has been placed upon them, they are called “crazy” or “hysterical”.

ANSWERS???

Cyborg Feminism and Situated Knowledge **(Donna Haraway)**

Cyborgs disrupt orderly power structures and fixed interests. They challenge settled politics, which assume that binary oppositions or identities are natural distinctions, as opposed to cultural constructions. Dualistic thinking (M/F) involves a "logic of dominance" because the parts of the dualisms are not equivalent. This logic produces hierarchies that legitimize men dominating women, whites dominating blacks, etc. Instead, these hierarchies should be undermined by actively exploring and mobilizing the blurring of borders.

ANSWERS???

Cyborg Feminism and Situated Knowledge (Donna Haraway)

Cyborgs disrupt order.

Ambiguity is Good!

... thinking (M/F) involves a "logic of dominance" because the parts of the dualisms are not equivalent. This logic produces hierarchies that legitimize men dominating women, whites dominating blacks, etc. Instead, these hierarchies should be undermined by actively exploring and mobilizing the blurring of borders.

ANSWERS???

Cyborg Feminism and Situated Knowledge (Donna Haraway)

**Knowledge is
Vulnerable**

... mechanisms are not equivalent. The logic produces hierarchies that legitimize men dominating women, whites dominating blacks, etc. Instead, these hierarchies should be undermined by actively exploring and mobilizing the blurring of borders.