

Haslanger

GENDER AND RACE

(WHAT) ARE THEY?

(WHAT DO WE WANT THEM TO BE?)

What Is Gender?

Anatomical Distinctions?

No,

even in anatomy, there are is no clear cut binary.

Racial categorization also doesn't map neatly
onto any useful biological classification.

Is gender real?

Is race real?

To answer these questions Haslanger looks at three properties:

Conceptual:

focuses on concepts

Descriptive:

focuses on extensions of concepts, develop even more *accurate* concepts. Empirical.

Analytical:

focuses on pragmatics.

not focused on explicating our ordinary concepts;

nor to investigate the kind that we may or may not be tracking with our everyday
conceptual apparatus

consider more fully the pragmatics of our talk employing the terms in question

What are gender and race "really" about?

Be skeptical.

Gender and race definitions can change depending on theoretical and political purposes.

When is it legitimate to appropriate the terms of ordinary discourse for theoretical purposes? When we include a semantic and political condition.

ACCEPTABILITY?

TRUTH?

Some truths are more relevant than others (Anderson 1995).

Critical (Feminist/Anti-Racist) Theory

Four concerns guiding the broad project:

(i) The need to identify and explain persistent inequalities between females and males, and between people of different "colors" how do we identify social forces if they are often under the **guise of biological forces** that perpetuate inequality.

(ii) we need a framework that will be **sensitive** to both the similarities and differences among males and females and among individuals in groups ' demarcated by "color."

Interlocking Opressions ; INTERSECTIONALITY OF RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER.

(iii) how gender and race are implicated in a broad range of social phenomena extending beyond those that obviously concern sexual and racial difference, ie whether art, religion, philosophy, science, or law might be "gendered" and/or "racialized."

(iv) take seriously the agency of women and people of color of both genders.

Why might feminist anti-racist want or need the concepts of gender and race? What can they do for us?

pg. 229 **Gender is a Social Class.**

Gender categories are defined in terms of how one is socially positioned, where this is a function of, for example, how one is viewed, how one is treated, and how one's life is structured socially, legally, and economically; gender is not defined in terms of an individual's intrinsic physical and psychological features.

Commonality & Normativity Problems.

Can we lump all women into a common social experience? No. Norms fall apart.

What is Race? Since there are no clear racial genes, race is a position in a broad social network.

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A group is *racialized* iff_{df} its members are socially positioned as subordinate or privileged along some dimension (economic, political, legal, social, etc.) and the group is "marked" as a target for this treatment by observed or imagined bodily features presumed to be evidence of ancestral links to a certain geographical region.

-Some groups are not racialized.

We should refuse to be gendered, refuse to be raced.

This goes beyond identifying essentialist claims about one's embodiment and involves an active political commitment to live one's life differently (Stoltenberg 1959)

What about 5 sexes.

Can we have non-hierarchical genders?

Making a just society.

There is no unique "right" way of classifying the myriad of human bodies

"Gender is the social meaning of race,"

What is the social meaning of "color"?

The aim is not to eliminate but lead to a non-oppressive state.

pg. 259 Should we treat carriers of the sickle cell gene as a group whose genotype-plus-geographical origins is relevant to structuring a just society?

How do we draw distinctions between humans?

pg. 261 On Outlaw's view race is a population defined by physiological factors

Alcoff drawing from David Goldberg: Race is a social and historical identity.

The difference between race and ethnoraces is that it requires commonality in culture and self construction of shared identity.

race, culture, ethnicity, pan-ethnicity, ethnorace

