GENDER MATTERS

Rethinking Research Priorities and Outcomes
Teaching Guide

Video Summary
This video discusses the importance of considering how **gender norms** influence research **priorities and outcomes**. It also addresses how research can be more inclusive, socially responsible, and relevant by setting gender-sensitive research priorities.

Discussion Questions
- Name some gender norms might influence our research priorities and outcomes.
- How would you feel to learn that only women were used as participants in a psychological study carried out by female researchers, but whose results were meant to be generalized to the entire population? Would your opinion of the quality of research change? If so, then what do you think of all the early research that was conducted by (White) men with (White) men, but was meant to generalize to all kinds of people?

Activities
- As a class, imagine you are designing a research project to study X (e.g., optical illusions, depression, fear responses, etc.). What components might you include in your project to ensure that your research priorities are gender sensitive?

Assignments
- Ask students select a recent research article and write a short report (3-4 pages) evaluating how sex and gender norms influenced the research priorities and outcomes of the study. Have them use the Sex/Gender-Responsive Assessment Scale (below), as a framework for their analysis, identifying where on the responsive scale the study's treatment of sex/gender falls. Discuss the research reported in the article in relation to the description associated with this item on the scale. How might researchers have conceptualized sex/gender differently in their study? Select a different position on the scale and describe how the study could be reimagined to fit this level of sex/gender responsiveness.

Additional Readings
Cole, E.R. & Stewart, A.J. (2001). Invidious comparisons: Imagining a psychology of race and gender beyond differences. *Political Psychology, 22,* 293-308.

Crawford, M. & Marecek, J. (1989). Psychology reconstructs the female, 1968-1988. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 13,* 147-165.

Fine, C. (2014). His brain, her brain. *Science, 346*(6212), 915-916.

Hare-Mustin, R. & Marecek, J. (1994). Asking the right questions: Feminist psychology and sex differences. *Feminism & Psychology, 4,* 531-537.

Hyde, J.S., Fennema, E.. & Lamon, S.J. (1990). Gender differences in mathematics performance: A meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin, 107,* 139-155.

Jaffee, S. & Hyde, J.S. (2000). Gender differences in moral orientation: A meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin, 126,* 703-726.

Shields, S. A. (1975). Functionalism, Darwinism, and the psychology of women. *American Psychologist, 30*, 739-754.

Travis, C. (1993). The mismeasure of woman. *Feminism & Psychology, 3*, 149-168.

Sex/Gender-Responsive Assessment Scale

Responsive Scale	Description
Sex/Gender-Blind	Ignores sex & gender trends and needs. Sex and gender are excluded as a variable in research design and methodology ● Possible sex and gender trends and needs have not been reviewed ● Sample size is not representative of the general population based on sex/gender; results can only be generalized to one sex or gender ● Data is not disaggregated by sex or gender, nor will it be analyzed or reported
Sex/Gender-Sensitive	Acknowledges the differences in sex & gender trends and needs *without* inclusion of sex/gender in the research design ● Literature review acknowledges differences based on sex/gender *and/or* ● Data is disaggregated by sex
Sex/Gender-Specific	Acknowledges the differences in sex & gender trends and needs *with* inclusion of sex/gender in the research design ● Literature review acknowledges differences based on sex/gender ● Data is disaggregated by sex/gender ● Data analysis seeks to explain differences for each sex/gender
Gender-transformative	● Considers gender norms, roles and relations for people of all genders and that these affect access to and control over resources ● Considers the specific needs of people of all genders ● Addresses the causes of gender-based health inequities ● Includes ways to transform harmful gender norms, roles and relations ● The objective is often to promote gender equality ● Includes strategies to foster progressive changes in power relationships between people of all genders

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