

GENDER MATTERS

Analyzing Factors Intersecting with Sex and Gender Teaching Guide

Video Summary

This video discusses factors that intersect with sex and gender and how an **intersectional approach** can be incorporated into psychological research.

Discussion Questions

- How would taking an intersectional approach affect psychological research design? What kinds of methodological changes do you envision this would entail?
- What are some ways you can imagine oppression operating in relation to different identity categories? For example, what different kinds of adversities might women, people of colour, or individuals of lower socioeconomic status encounter in their daily lives? What kinds of oppressions might be experienced with different intersections of these and other identities? (suggested reading: Belle & Doucet, 2003)
- The video discusses how intersectionality is not just about groups individuals identify with, but is also a factor in how we see or judge other people, and thus the oppression and discrimination they experience. What are some common stereotypes that you can think of? What kind of work can we do that will help us to undo our stereotypes?
- The video discusses a study by Pedulla (2014) in which negative stereotypes about gay men and black men “cancel each other out” as black men were perceived as more favourable job candidates than white gay men. How might their findings have been different had they manipulated **ONLY** the sexual orientation of the stimulus person, or **ONLY** the race of the stimulus person? Can you think of other combinations of other identity categories that might combine to counteract the negative stereotypes associated with them?

Activities

- As a class think of as many possible identity categories as you can and keep a list of these on the blackboard.
 - Try and come up with definitions of these categories as a class.
 - Then, in small groups, think about and discuss the intersections of your own identities. Describe an experience in which you may have benefitted from belonging to a privileged identity category, or in which you have experienced discrimination based on your identity.
- As a class or in small groups, brainstorm a few different psychological research questions that would benefit from incorporating an intersectional approach.
 - Discuss which identity factors would be relevant to these topics.
 - What combinations of these identity factors might we be interested in knowing about?
 - How might these factors intersect with sex/gender?

Assignments

- Have students write short (2-3 page) reflection papers in which they consider their own intersecting identities. In doing so, ask them to reflect on whether, for them, these identities can be separated or are necessarily intertwined.

- As individuals or in small groups, have the students find two psychological studies – one that *does* take an intersectional approach and one that *does not*, but that they think would benefit from including multiple identity factors. Have them prepare a presentation based on the following questions:
 - For the study that takes an intersectional approach:
 - What identity factors are included in the study?
 - Which intersecting identities were analyzed, and what were the findings?
 - Did the authors provide a discussion about their choice of identity factors and the results that were found?
 - Do you think the study was successful in answering its research question from an intersectional approach? Are there any relevant identity categories that you think have been left out?
 - For the study that does not take an intersectional approach:
 - Why does this study warrant an intersectional approach?
 - What identity factors would be relevant to the study?
 - What predictions would you make about the interactions between the different factors?

Additional Readings

- Belle, D. & Doucet, J. (2003). Poverty, inequality, and discrimination as sources of depression among U.S. women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 27, 101-113.
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- Schiebinger, L., Klinge, I., Paik, H. Y., Sánchez de Madariaga, I., Schraudner, M., and Stefanick, M. (Eds.) (2011-2016). *Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering, and Environment*. Retrieved from www.genderedinnovations.stanford.edu
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