“The Institutional Construction of the Gendered Self”

I. Announcements:

Readings?

Writing assignment.

Bonus Credits.

Adds/Drops through Add Codes (see TA for section)

Questions?
The Institutional Construction of the Gendered Self

I. Recap

II. What is an Institution?

III. What is Gender?
   Individual Centered Approach

IV. What is Gender?
   Institutional Centered Approach
The Institutional Construction of the Gendered Self

I. Recap:

A. Two Ways to See the World
   (individuals & institutions)

B. Started by Showing that the Individual is made by Institutions.
   • The Self is an Institutional Construct.
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II. What is an Institution?
1. Berger and Berger. What is an institution? (The Case of Language).
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II. What is an Institution?

2. Examples of Institutions:

- A hospital
- A prison
- A family
- A Marriage
- A Wedding
- Democracy
- A handshake
II. What is an Institution?

3. Definition:

A social arrangement or pattern of action, way of behaving or way of knowing that is enduring, widely shared and persistent.

Key Point: “the persistence [of institutions] is not dependent, notably, upon current collective mobilization, mobilization repetitively reengineered and reactivated in order to secure the reproduction of the pattern. That is, institutions are not reproduced by action […]. Rather, routine reproductive procedures support and sustain the pattern, furthering its reproduction – unless collective action blocks, or environmental shock disrupts the reproductive process” (Ron Jepperson, 1991, p. 145)
II. What is an Institution?

4. (Berger & Berger) Language as THE fundamental institution:

A. It Objectifies Reality (makes things concrete, reduces flux) makes stability.
II. What is an Institution?

4. Language as THE fundamental institution:

B. Have Coercive Power:
   - Cannot wish it away
   - Transgressions are sanctioned
II. What is an Institution?

4. Language as THE fundamental institution:

C. Has moral Authority:
   - Right to legitimacy
   - moral indignation is involved

“Now! That should clear up a few things around here!”
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II. What is an Institution?

4. Language as THE fundamental institution:

D. Has Historicity:
   - Preceded the individual
   - Will outlast the individual
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II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture

A. Linguistics & Anthropology.

Franz Boas (1858-1942)

Emphasized need to know the language to understand a people
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II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture

A. Linguistics & Anthropology.

Our Capacity for being “human” is defined by our capacity for abstraction.

Our capacity for abstraction is define by our ability to use language to represent the world.
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II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture
   A. Linguistics & Anthropology.

Boas famous example Eskimo language used to represent snow:

   Aput:  Snow on ground
   Qana:  Falling snow
   Piqsirpoq: Drifting snow
   Qimuqqsug: Snowdrift
II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture
A. Linguistics & Anthropology.

Boas point: Language comes interactively from experiences of the world.

But also, our experience of the world is shaped by our ability to name it, classify it, represent it.
II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture

B. Linguistics Relativity Hypothesis aka Sapir/Whorf Hypothesis.

Edward Sapir (1884-1939) student of Boas focused on internal logic of language systems
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II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture

B. Linguistics Relativity Hypothesis aka Sapir/Whorf Hypothesis.

Benjamin Whorf (1897-1941) chemical engineer (interest in language) studied Hopi Language (esp. grammar): Cryptotype (Covert Category) (languages both enable/constrain)
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II. What is an Institution?

5. Duranti: Language and Culture

B. Linguistics Relativity Hypothesis aka Sapir/Whorf Hypothesis.

Argued how we experience fundamental physical, material, spiritual, emotional states, conditioned on a linguistically given “world view”

How Time happens.

How Space is experienced, etc.
II. What is an Institution?

6. G. H. Mead:

How important social interaction is for defining the character, the meaning, the very experience of the self.

(see John Baldwin’s Lecture)
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II. What is an Institution?

6. G. H. Mead and the State of Nature?

If we believe these arguments about the role of institutions, raises powerful questions about “feral persons” and the founding mythology of the individual centered perspective (the state of nature).
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II. What is an Institution?

7. The Self outside of the Social

Experiments might be able to tell us?

Harry Harlow (1905-1981) on “the nature of love”. Rhesus monkeys raised in isolation.
### III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

#### A. Some Differences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male Occ's</th>
<th>Female Occ's</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineers 8%Women</td>
<td>Secretaries 99%Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist 10%Women</td>
<td>Receptionst 97% Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police 14%Women</td>
<td>Nurses 95%Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect. Tech 14%Women</td>
<td>Bank Teller 90%Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect 17%Women</td>
<td>Teacher-Elm 86%Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers/Judges 19%W.</td>
<td>Librarians 83%Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians 20%Women</td>
<td>Waiter/ess 82%Women</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

- Fortune 500 Senior Managers 5% Women.
- 4,012 Top Officers Corp. 19 Women (1/2 %)
- 6 U.S. Senators (6%)
- 48 U.S. Reps. (11%)
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

- 3/4 human societies are polygonous.
- 75% Human Societies Patrilocal
  10% Matriliocal.
- 5:1 Patrilineal/Matrilineal.
- Males (Almost) Always Have Formal Power (Authority).

Soc. Question: Why are Women and Men Different?
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

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Soc. Question: Why are Women and Men Different?
III. What is Gender and what is Sex?
B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

19th Century explanation was simple: Biological Capacity (mental/bodily):

Paul Broca (1824-1880): Craniometry (measure of heads)
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).


   - Skull Size = Intelligence.

   - 292 Men 1,325 grams (avg.)
     140 Women 1,144 grams (avg.) (Gorilla size)

   - Gould used modern statistics to show height/weight corrections perfectly explain variance
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

2. E. O. Wilson (1929-) —

A. Differences in Character (Not Intelligence).

- Women are Nuturant, Passive, Emotional, Commitment Oriented.

- Men are Aggressive, Combative, Competitive, Fickle.
III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

2. B. Genetic Opportunities Differ.

- Goal=Pass on those Genes!!!
- Females 20 (max!) opportunities.
- Males Endless Supply.
III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

2. C. Genetic Strategies Differ.

- Females Be Coy, Be Choosey, Be Faithful, Sacrifice.
- Males Be Opportunistic, Macho, Sly.
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

2. D. Wilson's Proof?

1. Animals Are the Same.
   • Baboon Troops (Males Have Authority).

2. Natural Experiments.
   • Boy Accidents.

3. Children's Play.
   • Boys Play Rougher.
   • Girls Smile More.
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

B. Explaining Differences (Individual Centered Explanations).

2. E. Other Interpretations of Wilson's Proof.

1. Animals Vary.
   
   • Jane Lancaster (Baboon Authority with Females).
   • Gender Reversal in Owl Monkeys, Marmosets, etc.

2. Boy Accidents (Not Very Reliable).

3. Children's Differences Due to Institutions.
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III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

C. Explaining Differences (Institutional Centered Explanations)

A. Institutions Mediate.

Genetics (Sex) --> \{Institutions\} --> Gendered (Self)

—Thus, Instead of....

Genetics --> Self-->Behavior

—We have...

Genetics --> \{Institutions\} --> Self-->Behavior
The Institutional Construction of the Gendered Self

III. What is Gender and what is Sex?

C. Explaining Differences (Institutional Centered Explanations)

B. Margaret Mead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arapesh</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mundugumor</td>
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<td>Men</td>
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<td>Tchambuli</td>
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<td>Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Us</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>Men</td>
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