



İSTANBUL  
**GELİŞİM**  
**ÜNİVERSİTESİ**

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

**GENDER**

WEEK 9

Asst. Prof. Pinar KARABABA KAYALIGİL

[www.gelisim.edu.tr](http://www.gelisim.edu.tr)



# Sex and Gender

- What is the difference between sex and gender?
- What is the first thing we look at when we see a newborn?
- How do we understand the gender of small children?



# Sex and Gender

- Sex refers to the anatomical and physiological characteristics of maleness or femaleness.
- Sex is determined by a combination of genetics and the presence or absence of hormones testosterone and estrogen.
- Gender is a **socially constructed** idea related with masculinity and femininity.
- Gender can be divided into some components relating to ideas of masculinity and femininity:
  - gender identity,
  - gender presentation
  - gender role.



- **Gender Identity:** the sense of ourselves as a gendered being.
- **Gender Presentation:** The behaviors and symbols associated with masculinity and femininity.
- **Gender Roles:** the social roles expected from men and women in a particular society.
- **Gender Socialization:** the process of learning and internalizing the norms of our gender.
- **Sexuality** can be broadly defined as how people experience and express themselves as sexual beings.
- **Sexual orientation** refers to established patterns of sexual attraction, to the same, opposite or both sexes.



# Research of Margaret Mead

- Anthropologist Margaret Mead made a research on gender in 1935.
- She claimed that if gender is based on the biological differences

between men and women, then everyone should define “femininity” and “masculinity” in the same way. These concepts would be different only if gender is cultural.

She conducted her research in New Guinea with three societies.



## Research of Margaret Mead

- The first community's men and women are observed to develop similar attitudes and behavior. They are both cooperative and sensitive to others which can be labelled as "feminine." in other cultures.
- In south there was another society defined by behaviors such as headhunting and cannibalism. Both sexes were typically self-oriented and aggressive which can be found as "masculine" in some societies.
- The third society had distinctive roles and behaviors for men and women; they were defined differently. Women were dominant and rational, and males were submissive, emotional, and nurturing toward children.
- Mead concluded that gender roles are created culturally.



# Gender Differences

- We see that the division of the population based on gender differences are constructed more visibly in some social domains.
- Reproduction and Production
- Private sphere- Public sphere
- Employment



# Reproduction and Production

- In industrial and post-industrial societies family continued to be the main social unit to produce the society.
- Women are held responsible in family and in household from:
  - The reproduction of the population
  - The reproduction of care services
  - Production of household services
  - And the production of the leisure time for the household members.
- Because they are given roles related with production and reproduction they also symbolically reproduce the borders of their country. In modern society women reproduce the nation and men protect it. Protection and being vulnerable are created over symbols and they are attributed to women.





## Public Sphere – Private Sphere

- Before industrial revolution many works related with the household including weaving and carpentry have been done in the household.
- When production was spread to workshops some of them continued to be done in the household (weaving).
- When industrial production started women were taken from the production part and held responsible from the other works in the household. Labor related with gaining Money were designed over the labor of men.
- That development led to the re-construction of two domains –house and its exterior- again. The difference between public and private realms started.



## Public Sphere – Private Sphere Distinction

- **Private Sphere:** became the area of production and reproduction of the family whose structure was changed after the industrial revolution. In case of women's waged labor, the roles associated with the private sphere were reflected on the employment sector and they became both a **reserved army of labor (last in first out)**, gained less money and given jobs thought to be related with their gender roles. They were also expected to continue their responsibilities at home.
- **Public Sphere:** Became the area of waged labor, socialization and making politics for men who became the representatives of the public. Clubs and coffeehouses where women still cannot enter is examples of it.



## Employment

- Divisions of labor and power divisions force women and men into a work environment in which roles and segments are different.
- Men and women are referred to works which are thought to be related with their gender roles. To be saved from these borders many obstacles –bureaucratic and social- had to be challenged.
- **Invisible labor:** Labor performed in the household is not considered as a labor to be waged and is not mentioned that much; but it becomes visible when it is not performed. It is not waged but it is forced.



## Sexism and Sexual Discrimination

- **Sexism:** is prejudice or discrimination based on a person's sex or gender. It bases on the belief that one sex is superior to the other.
- **Sexual discrimination:** involves treating someone unfavorably because of that person's sex. Includes hatred or belittling.
- **Marginalization:** The process whereby something or someone is pushed to the edge of a group and given lesser importance; affirmed an abnormal character. There are many symbols using the ideas related with femininity to marginalize some people or groups.
- **Hate crime:** harassment, intimidation, or physical violence that is motivated by a bias against characteristics of the victim considered integral to his/her social identity.



# The Costs of Sexism

- Source: Macionis, Sociology, 14th edition, pp: 295-297
- Sexism limits the talents and ambitions of the **half of the human population** who are women.
- Although men benefit in some respects from sexism, their privilege comes at a high price.
- Masculinity in our culture encourages men to engage in many high-risk behaviors: using tobacco and alcohol, playing dangerous sports, and even driving recklessly. As Marilyn French (1985) argues, **patriarchy drives men to seek control, not only of women but also of themselves and their world.**
- This is why masculinity is closely linked not only to accidents but also to violence, stress-related diseases, and suicide. The *Type A personality*—marked by chronic impatience, driving ambition, competitiveness, and free-floating hostility—is a recipe for heart disease and almost perfectly matches the behavior that our culture considers masculine (Ehrenreich, 1983).
- Finally, as men seek control over others, they lose opportunities for intimacy and trust. As one analyst put it, competition is supposed to “separate the men from the boys.” **In practice, however, it separates men from men and everyone else** (Raphael, 1988).