

Psychology of sex and gender

Autumn, 2016; The Swedish Program; Stockholm School of Economics

Location: Room A975a, Thursdays 9-12

Instructor: MSc Maja Wall, MSc Hellen Vergoossen

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Office hours: appointment

Course description

When you meet someone for the first time, their gender is one of the initial things you will notice, and by noticing it you implicitly categorize and attribute that person's behaviour. Even though we think of others belonging to a biological sex, your expectations of that person may be based on stereotypes and the social construct of sex: gender.

In the 'Psychology of Sex and Gender' course we will look at several major theories on what is thought to influence perceptions and expressions of sex, gender, sexuality, and the possible consequences for identity and social interaction. The course will include introductions to psychological research, the history of the women's movement and the study of gender differences. The focus of this course is to develop a broad knowledge base and a critical mind-set to be able to navigate discussions on a wide range of gender topics. We will integrate societal perspectives, personal experiences, existing psychological research, and gender theory.

The course follows the life phases and introduces fields within the psychology of sex and gender as they occur across one's life span. Topics include: the school experience, sexuality, gender in the media, as well as work and health.

As an interactive seminar, this course will lay a lot of weight at discussion as a way to integrate different perspectives.

Goals for the Course

- Being able to summarize, criticize and apply theories that attempt to explain gender similarities and differences
- Critically appraise psychological research on topics within the psychology of gender covered in the course.
- Understand the biological and social factors that affect thinking, relating, developing, and in general, the functioning of the genders in modern society
- Understand how gender influences and interacts with development during life
- Being able to reflect upon personal situations and experiences with the help of theories on sex and gender

Course requirements and examinations

The course will be examined by two examination papers. The first paper is guided by a number of questions to answer. The final exam is a thorough and critical examination of one

of the subjects that were presented and examined during the second part of the semester. The paper must have a clear gender perspective and it is possible to combine themes. This is an opportunity to obtain deeper knowledge about and to present a subject that interest or relate to the student. More specific information on the final exam follows later during the semester.

- Active participation: weighting 20%
- Midterm Exam: weighting 30%
- Final paper: weighting 50%

Active participation involves:

- Attending all classes. One lecture may be missed in case of sickness or other personal circumstances, but for every additionally missed lecture your final grade will be reduced by one step (A ---> A-);
- Participation in the weekly discussions;
- Turning in 2 discussion questions about that week's readings at least 24 hours prior to the class (with exception of the introductory class on September 8th);
- Integration of lectures and literature in the formulations of your arguments and weekly questions.

Discussion moderation: After the first hour of each lecture, a group of students will lead a class discussion based on the week's discussion questions. It is their responsibility to involve everyone in the discussion, to keep the discussion going, to keep overview, and to keep the group on-topic. Groups will be formed during the first lecture.

Required readings

Brannon, L. (2011). *Gender: Psychological Perspectives* (6th ed.). New York: Pearson. ISBN13: 9780205052684 or 9780205001651.

Articles (preliminary list, may be subject to change)*

Boskey, E. R. (2014). **Understanding transgender identity development in childhood and adolescence.** *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 9, 445-463.

Buss D.M. (2009). **The great struggles of life. Darwin and the emergence of evolutionary psychology.** *American Psychologist*, 64, 140-148.

Cuddy, A.J.C. & Fiske, S.T. (2004). **When Professionals Become Mothers, Warmth Doesn't Cut the Ice.** *Journal of Social Issues*, 60(4), 701-718.

Eagly & Wood (2013). *Feminism and Evolutionary Psychology: Moving Forward.* *Sex Roles*, 69, 549-556.

Eagly & Wood (2013). **Feminism and Evolutionary Psychology: Moving Forward.** *Sex Roles*, 69, 549-556.

Fausto-Sterling A, Garcia Coll C, Lamarre M. (2012). **Sexing the baby: Part 1 – What do we really know about sex differentiation in the first three years of life?** *Social Science & Medicine*, 74, 1684-1692.

Jordan-Young, R. **Hormones, Context, and “Brain Gender”:** A Review of Evidence from **Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia.** *Social Science & Medicine* 74:11, June 2012, Pages 1738-1744.

Kenrick, D.T., Trost, M.R. & Sundie, J.M. (2004). **Sex Roles as Adaptations: An Evolutionary Perspective on Gender Differences and Similarities.** In A.H. Eagly, A.E. Beall & R.J. Sternberg (Eds.). *The Psychology of Gender*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Kusterer H, Lindholm T & Montgomery H. (2013). **Gender typing in stereotypes and evaluations of actual managers.** *Journal of Managerial Psychology* 28(5), 561-579.

Steele, J.R. & Ambady, N. (2005). **“Math is Hard!” The effect of gender priming on women’s attitudes.** *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 42, 428-436.

Wood, W. & Eagly, A.H. (2010). **Gender.** In S.T. Fiske, D.T. Gilbert & G. Lindzey (Eds.). *Gender Handbook of Social Psychology, Volume 1* (pp.629-667). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

*Articles will be available on course website

Syllabus

1. Introduction

Thursday Sept 8, 10.15-12.15

Literature:

Article: Wood, W. & Eagly, A.H. (2010). **Gender.** In S.T. Fiske, D.T. Gilbert & G. Lindzey (Eds.). *Gender Handbook of Social Psychology, Volume 1* (pp.629-667). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

2. Sex and gender in research

Thursday Sept 15, 9-12

Literature: Brannon, preface, chapter 1-3.

3. The beginnings of sex and gender: From chromosomes to early socialization

Thursday Sept 22, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 4-5.

Article: Fausto-Sterling A, Garcia Coll C, Lamarre M. (2012). **Sexing the baby: Part 1 – What do we really know about sex differentiation in the first three years of life?** *Social Science & Medicine*, 74, 1684-1692.

4. Gender identity & relationships

Thursday Sept 29, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 5-7.

Fall Break Oct 3rd -7th

5. Sexuality and gender-non-conforming behaviour

Thursday Oct 13, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 8-10.

Article: Boskey, E. R. (2014). **Understanding transgender identity development in childhood and adolescence.** *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 9, 445-463.

6. Stereotype workshop

Thursday Oct 20 2, 9-12

Mid term paper, due date: Oct 26th 12 am

7. School and abilities

Thursday Oct 27, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 11

Article: Steele, J.R. & Ambady, N. (2005). **“Math is Hard!” The effect of gender priming on women’s attitudes.** *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 42, 428-436.

8. Work

Thursday Nov 3, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 12.

Article: Cuddy, A.J.C. & Fiske, S.T. (2004). **When Professionals Become Mothers, Warmth Doesn’t Cut the Ice.** *Journal of Social Issues*, 60(4), 701-718.

Kusterer H, Lindholm T & Montgomery H. (2013). **Gender typing in stereotypes and evaluations of actual managers.** *Journal of Managerial Psychology* 28(5), 561-579.

Winter Break, Nov 7th-11th

9. Gender and health

Thursday Nov 17, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 13-15.

10. Evolutionary perspectives on gender

Thursday Nov 24 9-12

Literature:

Article: Buss DM. (2009). **The great struggles of life. Darwin and the emergence of evolutionary psychology.** *American Psychologist*, 64, 140-148.

Eagly & Wood (2013). **Feminism and Evolutionary Psychology: Moving Forward.** *Sex Roles*, 69, 549-556.

Kenrick, D.T., Trost, M.R. & Sundie, J.M. (2004). **Sex Roles as Adaptations: An Evolutionary Perspective on Gender Differences and Similarities.** In A.H. Eagly, A.E. Beall & R.J. Sternberg (Eds.). *The Psychology of Gender*. New York: The Guilford Press.

11. Gender in media and communication

Thursday Dec 1st, 9-12

Literature: Brannon chapter 16

Final exam, due date December 8th 12 am.

12. Presentations of final exam. Feedback.

Thursday Dec 15th, 9-12
