

RESLIE
CORTÉS (SHE/THEY)

SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION
STUDIES

COLONIALITY
AND THE
GENDER
BINARY:
CULTURAL
HISTORIES
OF TRANS
AND
INTERSEX
PEOPLES

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GENDER AND SEX AS SOCIOCULTURAL CONSTRUCTS

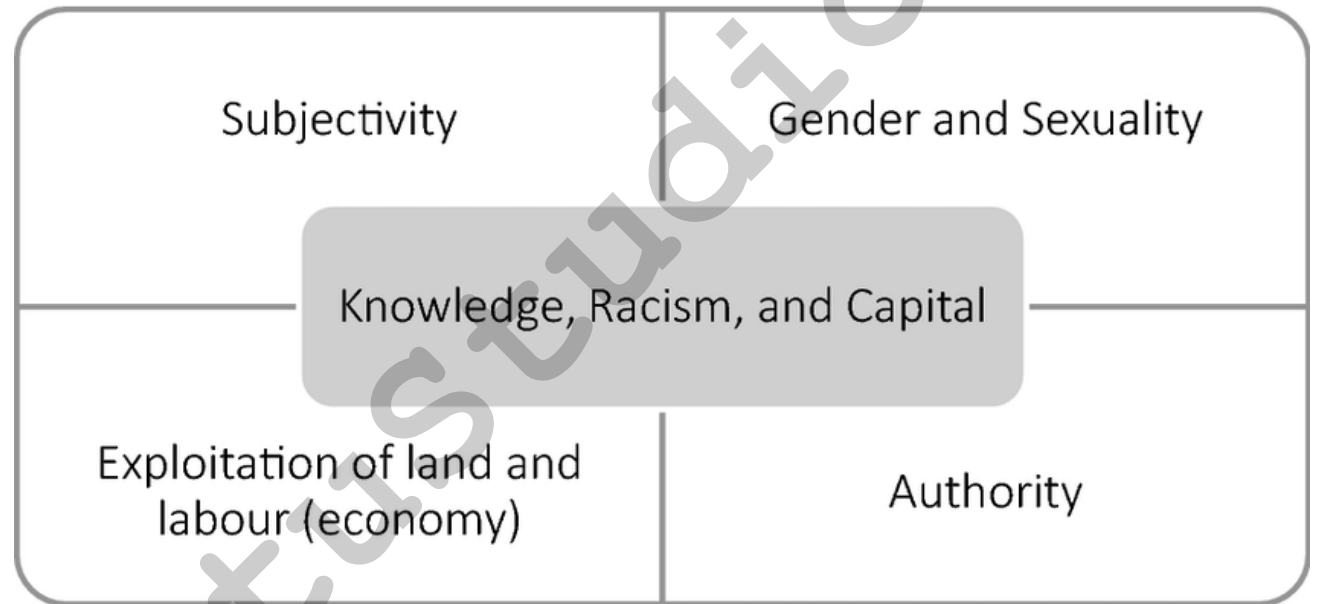
Biological Sex

- Genes
- Hormones
- Primary Sex Characteristics
- Secondary Sex Characteristics

Gender

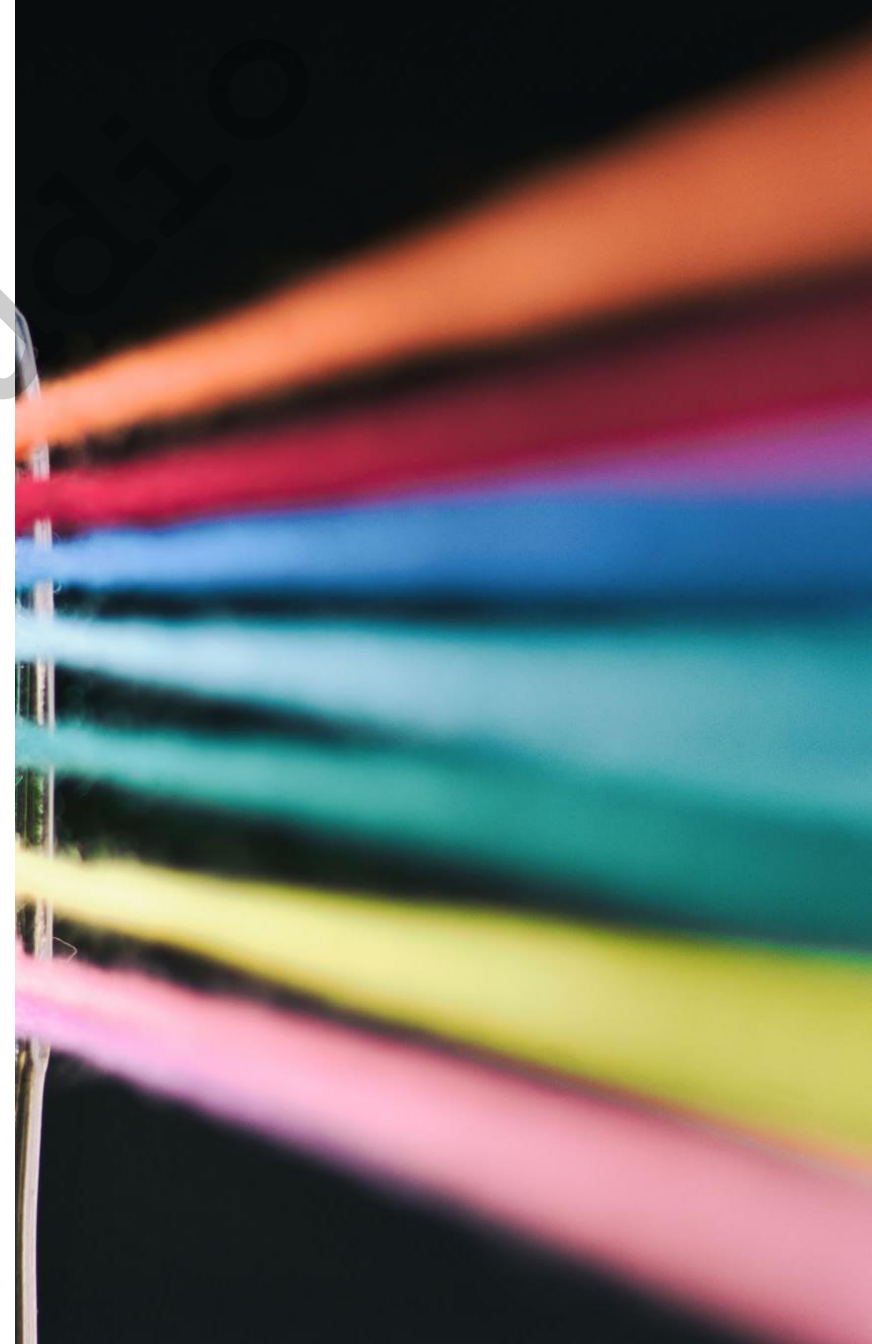
- Social
- Cultural
- Psychological
- Spiritual

WALTER MIGNOLO'S COLONIAL MATRIX OF POWER



- **Modernity**
 - Cartesian Dualism
 - Rationality
 - Scriptocentric
 - Linear
 - Compartmentalized

Processes of identity production (identification) then always involve a conscious or unconscious process of suturing, a way of sewing together disparate, sometimes contradictory elements as well as non-necessary relations to produce an appearance or feel of one-ness, continuity, id-ntity, stability, and coherence. (Mendoza, Halualani, & Drzeweicka, 2002, pg 316)



@TheSuturingStu

GENDER AND IDENTITY

Narrativization- the *sociocultural practice* of invoking shared cultural experiences through storytelling

Representation- *sociocultural* production of meaning through language particular to a cultural group

Ideological Interpellation- the *sociocultural* rituals, routines, and rites of passage that assist in the internalization of cultural values that make you part of the group

Performativity- *sociocultural* practices, norms, and expectations naturalized into the body. "Repeated stylizations of the body over time" (Butler) which become automatic and which are then tethered to group identity labels. (Ex. A *real* woman sits like *this*)

Symbolic Resignifications- Challenges to mainstream discourses about that identity. Negotiating what it means to be part of a cultural identity with other members.

LAENUI'S PROCESSES OF COLONIZATION

Denying

Destroying

Denigrating

Tokenizing

Exploiting



GÜEVEDOCES OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND KWOLU-AATMWOLOF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



CATHERINE AND HIS COUSIN CARLA, GUEVEDOCES IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (BBC, 2015)

MUXE'S OF OAXACA



Estrella Vazque, Muxe, Vogue Mexico, December 2019

HIJRAS OF SOUTH ASIA



A group of hijra in Bangladesh in 2010, by USAID Bangladesh, Wikimedia Commons: <http://bit.ly/2w0PINE>



TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE OF TURTLE ISLAND

- *Lakota Two Spirit Osh-Tisch (left) with wife*

6 GENDERS OF CLASSICAL JUDAISM

משנה ביכורים ד':א'

(א) אדדוגינוס יש בו דרכים שוה לאנשים ויש בו דרכים שוה לנשים ויש בו דרכים שוה לאנשים ונשים ויש בו דרכים אינו שוה לא לאנישם ולא לנשים:

Mishnah Bikkurim 4:1

(1) An *Androgynus* (a hermaphrodite, who has both male and female reproductive organs) is similar to men in some ways and to women in other ways, in some ways to both and in some ways to neither.

משנה ביכורים ד':ב'

(ב) כיצד שוה לאנשים מטמא בלובן כאנשים וזוקק ליבום כאנשים ומתעטף ומסתפר כאנשים ונושא אבל לא נישא כאנשים וחייב בכל מצות האמורות בתורה כאנשים:

Mishnah Bikkurim 4:2

(2) In what ways is s/he similar to men? Like a man, s/he is considered unclean through semen; is required to perform *yibum* (to marry the widow of a childless brother) like a man; dresses and cuts hair like a man; marries others and is not married off, like a man; and is obliged to perform all the commandments in the Torah, like a man.



VEDAS HINDU LITERATURE

- Vedas-
 - Narasandha
 - Narisandha
 - Asekya Purusa
 - Kumbhika

- Credit to Tara Raani

KURGARRÛ & ASSINNUM OF MESOPOTAMIA (2000 B.C.E.)





LAENUI: PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION

- Rediscovery and Recovery
- Mourning
- Dreaming
- Commitment
- Action

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