Chapter 3
Gender

Learning Objectives

List and explain the five primary gender role terms.
Identify five theories of gender role development.
Review seven agents which influence gender role learning.

Describe in detail gender roles in four other societies.
Discuss the consequences of gender role socialization for women and men.
Know how gender roles are changing and the future of gender roles.
Chapter 3: Gender

Introduction

• **Quote:** “He said to me.. Shall we try swapping positions tonight? I said to him… good idea—you cook us dinner in the kitchen and I’ll drink beer on the sofa.”
  – Anonymous

• **Discussion:**
  – How does the quote above exemplify traditional gender roles in our society?
Chapter 3: Gender

Introduction

• Food for thought…
  – Caster Semenya won gold in the women’s 800-m race at the World Athletics Championship in 2009, but colleagues questioned if the 18 year old South African was, in fact, a woman.
  – Based on her picture and athletic ability, why would her colleagues think this?
Terminology of Gender Roles: Sex

- The biological distinction between females and males.
- Factors used to determine biological sex:
  - Chromosomes: XX for females; XY for males
  - Gonads: Ovaries for females; testes for males
  - Hormones
  - Internal sex organs
  - External genitals
- **Intersexed Individuals:** Those with mixed or ambiguous genitals
Terminology of Gender Roles: 

**Gender**

- Gender
  - The **social construct** that refers to the social and psychological characteristics associated with being female or male.
  - Feminine vs. masculine
  - Gender differences are a consequence of biological (chromosomes, hormones) & social factors (models like parents, siblings).

- Women: soft, passive, cooperative
- Men: rough, aggressive, forceful
Terminology of Gender Roles:

**Gender**

- **Gender Identity**
  - The psychological state of viewing oneself as a girl or a boy, and later as a man or a woman.
- **Transgender**
  - A generic term for a person of one biological sex who displays characteristics of the other sex
  - Cross-Dresser
  - Transsexual
- **MtF** = male to female
- **FtM**: female to male
# Terminology of Gender Roles: Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Biological Sex</th>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-dresser</td>
<td>Either</td>
<td>Either</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transvestite</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transsexual</td>
<td>Either</td>
<td>Either</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Terminology of Gender Roles: 

**Gender**

- **Gender Roles**
  - Social norms that specify the socially appropriate behavior for females and males in society

- **Sex Roles**
  - Roles defined by biological constraints; can be enacted by members of one biological sex only
Terminology of Gender Roles: *Gender*

- Gender Role Ideology
  - The proper role relationships between women and men in a society
- Gender Differences in Viewing Romantic Relationships
Terminology of Gender Roles:

**Gender**

- **Food for thought…**
  - What would happen if your healthy baby boy’s genitals were damaged right after birth?
  - *David Reimer: Raised as a Girl*
  - [Lets Watch](#)
Theories of Gender Development: Biosocial

• Biosocial (sociobiology)
  – Emphasizes that social behaviors (gender roles) are biological based and have an evolutionary survival function.
  – Women select/mate with men who will invest in their offspring
  – Women have to find the best mate b/c they have been denied of the same economic resources
Theories of Gender Development: Bioecological Model

• Emphasizes the importance of understanding bidirectional influences between an individual’s development and his or her surrounding environmental contexts.

• A child will observe what gender role is accepted in society and will adapt to it
Theories of Gender Development: Social Learning

• Social Learning
  – Derived from the school of behavioral psychology
  – Emphasizes the roles of reward and punishment in explaining how a child learns gender role behavior
  – Child also learns from direct instruction
Agents of Socialization

- Sources influencing gender socialization:
  - Family
  - Peers
  - Religion
  - Education
  - Economy
  - Mass Media

Danica Patrick is one of the few females to break into Nascar racing.
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization:
Female Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Consequences</th>
<th>Positive Consequences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less income (more dependent)</td>
<td>Longer life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminization of poverty</td>
<td>Stronger relationship focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher STD/ HIV infection risk</td>
<td>Keeping relationships on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative body image</td>
<td>Bonding with children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less personal/ marital satisfaction</td>
<td>Identity not tied to job</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization: Feminization of Poverty

- Disproportionate percentage of poverty experienced by women living alone or with their children.
- Poverty contributes to teen pregnancy, since teens have limited supervision and few alternatives to parenthood.
- Early childbearing interferes with education and restricts earning capacity.
- Offspring are born into poverty, and the cycle repeats.
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization:
Relationship Choices for Women

- A woman who is not socialized to pursue an education may feel pressure to stay in an unhappy relationship.
- Women who are socialized not to initiate relationships are limiting interactions that could develop into valued relationships.
- Women who are socialized to accept that they are less valuable than men are less likely to achieve egalitarian relationships.
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization: Relationship Choices for Women

• Women who view their worth in terms of age and appearance are likely to feel bad about themselves as they age.

• Women who are socialized to accept that they are solely responsible for taking care of their parents, children, and husband are likely to experience role overload.

• Women who are socialized to emphasize the importance of relationships will seek relationships that are emotionally satisfying.
## Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization: Male Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Consequences</th>
<th>Positive Consequences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity tied to work role</td>
<td>Higher income and occupational status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited emotionally</td>
<td>More positive self-concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of intimacy; more lonely</td>
<td>Less job discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantaged in getting custody</td>
<td>Freedom of movement; more partners to select from; more normative to initiate relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter life</td>
<td>Happier marriage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization: Relationship Choices for Men

- Men who are socialized to define themselves in terms of their income leave their self-esteem vulnerable should they become unemployed.
- Men who are socialized to restrict their expression of emotions are denied the opportunity for interpersonal sharing.
- Men who are socialized to believe it is not their role to participate in domestic activities will not be competent in these life skills.
Consequences of Traditional Gender Role Socialization: Relationship Choices for Men

- Heterosexual men who focus on cultural definitions of female beauty overlook potential partners.
- Men who are socialized to view women who initiate relationships negatively are restricted in their relationship opportunities.
- Men who are socialized to be in control of relationship encounters may alienate their partners, who may desire equal influence in relationships.
Changing Gender Roles:
Androgynty

• A blend of traits stereotypically associated with masculinity and femininity
  – Physiological androgynty refers to intersexed individuals.

• Behavioral androgynty refers to the blending or reversal of traditional male and female behavior, so a biological male may be gentle and nurturing, and a biological female may be assertive and selfish.
The Future of Gender Roles

• Food for thought…
  – Imagine a society in which women and men each develop characteristics, lifestyles, and values that are independent of gender role stereotypes.
  – Is such a society possible? Discuss.
Quick Quiz

3. Which theory emphasizes the role of reward and punishment in explaining how a child learns gender role behavior?
   A. gender role transcendence
   B. identification
   C. cognitive-developmental theory
   D. social learning theory
Quick Quiz

2. Which term refers to a blend of traits that is associated with both masculinity and femininity?
   A. gender orientation
   B. hermaphroditism
   C. transgendered
   D. androgyny
3. Which theory emphasizes the role of reward and punishment in explaining how a child learns gender role behavior?

A. gender role transcendence
B. identification
C. cognitive-developmental theory
D. social learning theory
Quick Quiz

4. The social norms that dictate what is socially regarded as appropriate female and male behaviors make up one's:

   A. gender role
   B. gender identity
   C. sex role
   D. socialization