

Intersectionality | 1. Administrative
2. Intersectionality

Worksheet turn-in

- ⋮ Starting with this worksheet (due tomorrow), please submit your work in **two places** on MyCourses
- ⋮ **1:** Submit as usual in the peer feedback section
Content > Discussion worksheets > SOCI 210 Worksheet X
- ⋮ **2:** Submit to MyCourses assignments tab
Assignments > Work sheet X
- ⋮ *The deadline is 11:59pm (23h59) for both submissions*

TA feedback

- ⋮ Feedback and scores from the TAs will be available for about half of the groups for each worksheet on the MyCourses submission
- ⋮ Feedback will mostly be in-line on the document itself
- ⋮ Initials of the evaluator under the MyCourses comment
CB (Calla Brugmans; she/her)
EB (Emma Brion; they/them)

Intersectionality



Barbara Smith with the Combahee River Collective in 1979

The image shows a screenshot of a web form with several fields. The 'Ethnicity*' field is set to 'Hispanic or Latino'. The 'Ethnicity Sub-Category' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of options including Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Salvadoran, Other Central American, Argentinean, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, Other South American, Spaniard, Unknown Hispanic, and Other Hispanic. Other visible fields include 'Race*', 'Student ID#', and 'Billing Sources'.

Social categories

- ∴ Race, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality ...
- ∴ Central to sociological research
- ∴ Used to explain differences in outcomes, role expectations, etc.
- ∴ Key explanations of inequality and discrimination

Often studied separately

- ∴ Social categories usually studied as separate topics.
- ∴ E.g. "Sociology of race and ethnicity"

Intersectionality

- ∴ Intersectional sociology maintains that studying social categories (like race, disability, class, gender, sexuality, ...) separately impedes our understanding of those categories

DeGraffenreid v. General Motors (1976)

∴ Term “intersectionality” coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the outcome of a workplace discrimination lawsuit at General Motors filed by Black women employees (among other legal cases)

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. “Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics.” *u. Chi. Legal f.* (1989): 139.

∴ GM had many Black men working in their factories, and many white women working in their offices, so the court found no evidence of racial or gender discrimination



INTERSECTIONALITY

Social categories are *not* independent

- ∴ “Rather than examining gender, race, class, and nation as distinctive social hierarchies, intersectionality examines how they mutually construct one another.”

Collins, Patricia Hill. “It’s All In the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation.” *Hypatia* 13, no. 3 (August 1998): 62–82.

- ∴ The experiences of, e.g., Black women is not just the experiences of being Black “plus” the experience of being a women

Intersectional analyses

- ∴ Look at the way that multiple, overlapping social categories affect a social outcome
- ∴ E.g. *how can the intersection of gender, race, and class help us explain why Black women are 360% more likely to die during pregnancy than whitewomen in the United States?*

<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/pregnancy-mortality-surveillance-system.htm>

- ∴ E.g. “The intersectional/interlocking nature of racism, sexism, classism, and colonialism compound the vulnerabilities faced by Aboriginal women in Canada.”

Gilchrist, Kristen. 2010. “‘Newsworthy’ Victims?” *Feminist Media Studies* 10 (4): 373–90.

The screenshot shows the top portion of a Vox website article. At the top is a yellow navigation bar with the 'Vox' logo on the left, and 'Give' and 'Newsletters' buttons on the right. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'EXPLAINERS', 'CROSSWORD', and 'MORE' options. A third bar highlights 'HEALTH CARE' in yellow, with 'POLITICS' and 'SCIENCE' also visible. The article title is 'What Serena Williams's scary childbirth story says about medical treatment of black women'. Below the title is a short introductory paragraph: 'Black women are often dismissed or ignored by medical care providers. Williams wasn't an exception.' The byline reads 'By P.R. Lockhart | Jan 11, 2018, 4:40pm EST'. There are social media share icons for Facebook, Twitter, and a general 'SHARE' button. At the bottom of the screenshot is a large image of a woman's face in profile, looking down, with a blurred background of red and blue lights. The image is credited to 'Clive Brunskill/Getty Images'.

Clive Brunskill/Getty Images

Image credit



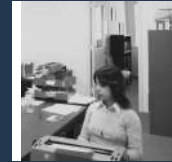
Barbara Smith at a 1979 rally. Photo by Ellen Shub, via [The New Yorker](#)



Image from teachingstrategies.my.site.com



Bettmann/Corbis via [The New York Times](#)



FPG/Archive Photos/Getty Images via [CNN](#)



Screenshot from [Vox](#)