

PANEL 6: GENDER

No more Divas. A short history of women in wrestling – mapping the feminist waves

The overall goal of this dissertation will be to explore the history of women in wrestling and map the feminist waves and how they are reflected in sports entertainment. In this day and age the topic of feminism is very popular, but not in the wrestling world. It is a very important topic for female fans of wrestling because there is no summarised information available on this specific subject. The dissertation will examine the idea of how hard it is for a female to succeed in a patriarchal world which is the WWE. The project will be based on secondary research. "Sisterhood of the Squared Circle: The History and Rise of Women's Wrestling" written by Pat Laprade and Dan Murphy. The dissertation will also include some key feminist theorists like Elizabeth Gross and others. The dissertation will be structured in three essays based on the three waves of feminism and how it is reflected in the wrestling world.

What impact has the rise of unemployment and non-standard employment since the late 1970s had on White working-class masculine identity? A sociological perspective.

The realm of work in the Western world has transformed since the late 1970s with globalisation. Before this, blue-collar and manufacturing employment dominated the workforce. However, there has been a decrease of traditional male, blue-collar jobs, working-class men began to engage in service related work or became unemployed. Hence, this transformation of employment, it can be argued, led to changes on the identities of white working-class individuals, which is what this project aims to investigate. This topic was chosen because employment has a significant role in shaping individual's identities; it is their main occupation and it is how they contribute to society. The growth of non-standard employment and unemployment for White, working class males in the Western world has led to, arguable, new features of identity that were never experienced before. For example, rising suicide rates among young White working class men because they cannot fulfil the breadwinning persona. As a secondary research dissertation is going to be conducted, a range of data including seminal texts and journal articles will be used.

Media portrayal of violent female offenders

The proposed research project will explore the different ways in which the media portray violent female offenders in comparison to their male counterparts. In addition, it will analyse how this representation has an impact on the public's attitudes and opinions towards both groups. This research will explore how women are labelled after committing crime and whether they are seen as being worse when compared to a man who commits the same crime. Yvonne Jewkes (2015) developed the theory of the 12 Narratives, which examines the effects the media has on the image of women which will be considered alongside Feminist theory which examines gender and gender inequality (Lorber, 2012). The Feminist perspective underlines the nature of gender inequality and

the use of this in society (Messerschmidt, 1986). In addition, comparing this to Labelling theory (Becker 1963) examining society's reaction to a deviant rather than them as an individual in addition to studying the effects of labelling on their personality.

Gender disparities within mental health: An exploration of contemporary psychosocial experiences of gender and a discussion why the traditional gender binary is damaging and no longer applicable

Secondary literature based research for this proposed study, will explore differences within contemporary experiences of gender and mental health. Salk, Hyde, and Abrahamson's (2017) national meta-analysis on gender differences in depression, echoes the assumption within Clinical Psychological literature to date, that there is a gender difference in how individuals experience Mental Health, primarily focussing in this study on depression and anxiety. Research suggests that there are a number of genetic and biological differences between men and women in relation to brain size and function, cognition and response to stimuli, which may explain susceptibility or resilience to certain pathological conditions (Goldman, 2017). Salk et al (2017) suggest that more women than men are represented in figures on depression, albeit the researchers advise this type of research is not meant to pose a marginalising effect, but contribute to the aetiology and treatment of the disorder through investigative research into sexed differences. The proposed enquiry will look at possible reasons for the over representation of woman and discuss gender-centricity of previous Patriarchal Psychological research that insinuates a cyclical gender bias, arguably influencing healthcare providers and marginalising women and non-binary genders/sexualities (Ellis, , Bailey, And Mcneil, 2015). Research by the Samaritan's (Whyllie et al, 2012) investigated causes behind the rise of male suicide suggesting traditional socialisation and gender norm conformity, as well as lowered socioeconomic status to increase negative effects and raise mental health concerns. A primary suggestion is that stereotypical gendered expectations and fluid identities of individuals, resulted in conflict and negative consequence. Male domination and gender categorisation remains arguably limiting individuality, devaluing contemporary psychosocial lived experiences and supportive of a gender binary of biological predetermined expectations, discussed in further detail. Arguably patriarchal institutionalised ideologies reject progressive ideals of gender equality and fluidity, allowing perceived deviance and negative experiences of gender and sexuality. Social learning theory illustrates how socialised gendered norms, values and constructs form inherent foundations for prejudice, stigmatisation and stereotyping that marginalises nonconformists. Impaired mental health emphasises the damaging effects of patriarchy which is explored. Gender differences within aetiology debatably label individuals and further marginalises individuals who may be one gender and feel another, if that is the case, which gender would they treat? Does this then make the validation for gender disparities irrelevant or appropriate contemporarily?

Intersectionality – portrayals of women to young and more mature audiences

There are over 250 women's magazines worldwide. This particular topic will be important as it hasn't been studied often and seems to be a recurring issue in magazines, although targeted at many women there seems to be a lack of diversity. The study should show the gender divide and lack of diversity and social pressures created in these magazines. One of the key theories that will be used will be Crenshaw's Intersectionality theory, alongside this there will be use of Mulvey's Male Gaze theory. The research will be secondary research and studying on from previous theories and studies,

the methodology will be a content analysis of magazines including; Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, Elle, Marie Claire, Teen Vogue, Shout, Seventeen. The structure will be 3 sections studying mature magazines based on race, sex and gender then 3 sections studying younger magazines based on race, sex and gender.