



GENDER

- SEX
 - BIOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVENESS
- GENDER
 - REFLECT CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS OF ALONG SEX LINES
- ALL SOCIETIES TREAT MALES AND FEMALES DIFFERENTLY
- MOST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SEXES HAVE TO DO WITH CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS RATHER THAN BIOLOGICAL REALITIES

DIFFERENCES

- MALES AND FEMALES OF THE HUMAN SPECIES ARE SEXUALLY DIMORPHIC (*NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCES*)
- SOME OF THESE DIFFERENCES
 - FEMALES HAVE WIDER PELVISES; WHILE MALES ARE TYPICALLY TALLER
 - FEMALES HAVE MORE TOLERANCE FOR PAIN; MALES HAVE GREATER SHORT-TERM STRENGTH
 - FEMALES ARE STRONGER AND HEALTHIER AT BIRTH; MALES ARE HEALTHIER IN OLD AGE
 - WOMEN STOP GROWING SHORTLY AFTER PUBERTY; MEN GROW AFTER PUBERTY

GENDER ROLES

WHY DO SOCIETIES DEVELOP SUCH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS OF LABOR ALONG GENDER LINES?

- **STRENGTH THEORY**
 - HOLDS THAT THE GREATER STRENGTH MALES, AND THEIR SUPERIOR CAPACITY TO MOBILIZE STRENGTH IN QUICK BURSTS OF ENERGY, HAS BEEN CITED AS THE REASONS FOR UNIVERSAL OR NEAR-UNIVERSAL PATTERNS OF DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
- **COMPATIBILITY WITH CHILD CARE THEORY**
 - WOMEN'S TASKS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN THOSE THAT DO NOT REMOVE THE WOMAN FROM THE HOUSEHOLD DUE TO TASKS ONLY WOMAN CAN PERFORM FOR CHILDREN
 - BREAST-FEEDING FOR TWO OR MORE YEARS

OTHER THEORIES

- **ECONOMY OF EFFORT THEORY**
 - IF EFFORT IS EXPENDED COLLECTING MATERIALS, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THAT GROUP SHOULD WORK WITH THE MATERIAL, CONVERTING IT TO ITS FINAL FORM
 - EXAMPLE: COLLECTING WOOD FOR WEAPONS
- **EXPENDABILITY THEORY**
 - MEN WILL TEND TO DO THE MORE DANGEROUS WORK IN A SOCIETY BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE EXPENDABLE; WOMEN CAN HAVE SEX WITH MORE THAN ONE MAN

CONTRIBUTIONS BY GENDER TO SUBSISTENCE

- **STEREOTYPICAL SITUATIONS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY**
 - MALES ARE THE BREADWINNERS WHILE THE FEMALE IS THE HOUSEHOLD MANAGER AND PRIMARY CHILD CARE PERSON - BUT THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE!
- **WHO CONTRIBUTES MORE TO A FAMILY'S SUBSISTENCE?**
 - **PRIMARY SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES**
 - FOOD GETTING ACTIVITIES ALREADY DISCUSSED: HUNTING, FISHING, HERDING, AND SO FORTH
 - **SECONDARY SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES**
 - MANY ACTIVITIES INVOLVED PREPARATION AND PROCESSING FOR EATING AND STORING FOOD STUFF
 - IN SOME SOCIETIES, HORTICULTURE YIELDS *MORE CALORIES* THAN MEAT FROM HUNTING - TRADITIONALLY, ONE OF THE JOBS WOMEN PERFORM IS CROP TENDING

LEADERSHIP

- IN ALMOST EVERY SOCIETY, MALES DOMINATE THE POLITICAL SCENE
 - IN 85 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRIES SURVEYED IN ONE CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY, ONLY MEN SERVED
- WOMEN SELDOM PARTICIPATE IN WARFARE ACTIVITIES
 - IN 88 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S SOCIETIES, WOMEN HAVE NEVER SERVED ACTIVELY IN WAR
 - THINK ABOUT SOME OF THE EXPLANATIONS ABOUT WHY THE DIVISION OF LABOR IS SO STRUCTURED
- EVEN IN MATRILINEAL SOCIETIES, MEN USUALLY OCCUPY POLITICAL OFFICES
 - IF WOMEN HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR HOME AND JOIN THE MAN'S FAMILY AFTER MARRIAGE, SHE WILL BE A STRANGER TO THE COMMUNITY
 - IF A STRANGER, THEN UNTRUSTWORTHY IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

RELATIVE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETIES


- WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE VARYING DEGREES OF *GENDER STRATIFICATION* IN THE WORLD?
 - THE MORE ACTIVITIES WOMEN TAKE PART IN WHEN IT COMES TO PRIMARY SUBSISTENCE, THE HIGHER THEIR STATUS IN THE SOCIETY
 - IN SOCIETIES WHERE WARFARE IS VERY IMPORTANT, MEN WILL BE GIVEN HIGHER STATUS
 - IF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR RECEIVES HIGH STATUS, THEN MEN WILL BE GIVEN HIGHER STATUS
 - THIS IS THE CASE IN MOST SOCIETIES WHERE POLITICS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED
 - IF A COUPLE'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS DETERMINED BY FEMALE KIN GROUPS, FEMALES HAVE HIGHER STATUS

PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES

- MEAD'S STUDIES IN NEW GUINEA HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM MORE RECENT RESEARCH
- PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES NOW SUGGESTED BY STUDIES:
 - BOYS TRY TO HURT OTHERS MORE OFTEN THAN GIRLS
 - BOYS EXHIBIT MORE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR THAN DO GIRLS, EVEN IN CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES
 - GIRLS TEND TO NUTURE ONE ANOTHER WHILE BOYS TEND TO COMPETE, EXERTING DOMINANCE
 - BOYS TEND TO PLAY IN LARGER GROUPS THAN DO GIRLS

THE NATURE VERSUS NURTURE DEBATE

**BOY! I SURE DON'T
FEEL VERY MUCH
AT HOME OUT HERE
IN NATURE!**



• **ARE PEOPLE WHO THEY
ARE DUE TO THEIR GENETIC
CODES, OR IS PERSONALITY
DEVELOPMENT
INFLUENCED MORE BY
SOCIAL EXPERIENCE AND
LEARNING?**

– **WE ARE BORN WITH
POTENTIALS, BUT
WHETHER OR NOT THEY
ARE TAPPED IS DUE TO
SOCIAL EXPERIENCE**

SEXUALITY

• **SEXUAL BEHAVIOR WILL VARY GREATLY AMONG SOCIETIES
BECAUSE IT, LIKE MOST ELEMENTS OF CULTURE, IS RELATIVE**

- **NORMS CHANGE AND SEX IS GOVERNED BY A SOCIETY'S VALUES,
NORMS, AND LAWS**
- **TYPES OF CULTURAL CONSTRAINT**
 - **PREMARITAL SEX**
 - **CAN LEAD TO MANY DYSFUNCTIONS FOR A SOCIETY LIKE OUT OF WEDLOCK
BIRTHS, TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, AND SO FORTH**
 - **EXTRAMARITAL SEX**
 - **MOST SOCIETIES THAT HAVE NORMS AGAINST EXTRAMARITAL SEX WILL
APPLY THEM UNEVENLY; WOMEN ARE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD THAN
MEN**
 - **SEX WITHIN A MARRIAGE**
 - **AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS VERY FEW NORMS OR LAWS GOVERING THE TYPE
AND FREQUENCY OF SEX IN A MARRIAGE**
 - **LAWS AGAINST SODOMY ARE STILL ON MANY STATE'S LAW BOOKS**
 - **HOMOSEXUALITY**
 - **ACCEPTANCE VARIES FROM SOCIETIES WHERE IT IS OPENLY ACCEPTED TO
SOCIETIES WHERE IT IS A SEXUAL TABOO**
