

Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity

Current Research About Women and Men



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Rosemary C. Veniegas ♦ Pamela L. Taylor

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Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity

Preface

This anthology brings together the best available research on the joint effects of gender, culture, and ethnicity in people's lives. This unique volume presents work by leading social science scholars and includes studies of ethnic minority populations in the United States as well as cross-cultural comparisons. The book is designed for use by undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in courses in the psychology of women; sex and gender; women's studies; and related topics. The readings present students with primary source materials that can serve as a companion to a standard textbook, or they can be used as the core readings in a course focusing on gender, culture, and ethnicity. The articles included in this volume were selected with several criteria in mind.

First, we made every effort to choose articles that students will find interesting, readable, and informative. Articles included in this collection were read and critiqued by undergraduates and by college instructors before final selections were made.

Second, we selected a set of articles that is comprehensive and balanced in content. The articles cover the range of standard topics addressed in courses in the psychology of women or gender. The volume includes both conceptual papers that review a body of literature and empirical research studies. The articles present important work by prominent researchers and consequently acquaint readers with outstanding research using diverse methods. For example, the collection includes both quantitative and qualitative methods. Instructors who use anthologies to provide their students with primary sources that illustrate different research approaches will find that the reader serves this purpose well.

Third, this collection represents a broad spectrum of cultural and ethnic populations. Major emphasis is given to African American, Asian American, and Latino/Hispanic groups in the United States. In addition, several articles present cross-cultural research from Mexico, Israel, Korea, New Guinea, and the Philippines. Several articles address issues of social class. Although some of the selections focus specifically on women of color, many of the articles address issues affecting both women and men.

Format and Pedagogical Features

This collection comprises 24 reprinted articles plus an introductory chapter and resource guide written by the editors. The articles are organized into nine thematic sections.

The book includes several pedagogical features:

- Most important, the articles themselves have been selected with student readers in mind, and were “pretested” and approved by undergraduates at UCLA.
- The book begins with two introductory chapters that explain key concepts such as culture and ethnicity, outline the nature of sociocultural analyses of gender, and set the stage for the articles that follow.
- Each article is preceded by a brief introduction. The purpose of these introductions is to alert students to the main issues in the article, to explain terms that may be unfamiliar, and to raise questions for students to consider while reading the article.
- Each article is followed by a set of “Questions for Thought,” designed to stimulate critical thinking about the material. Students are asked to examine the arguments and evidence presented by the authors, to consider directions for future research, and to think about the practical implications of the work. These questions can be used to stimulate class discussion or as the basis for written assignments.
- The book includes a “Guide to Resources About Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity” that contains suggestions for instructors and students about additional materials. These include resources in the professional research literature as well as Internet Web sites, videos, films, literature, and other materials that can be used to enrich understanding of gender, culture, and ethnicity.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many UCLA undergraduates who provided valuable comments about the articles included in this collection. Jennifer Frank provided much-needed assistance with library research. Erica Mimran and Kristin Beals also provided helpful comments. We thank the following reviewers for their time and insightful suggestions: Patricia L. N. Donat, Mississippi University for Women; Susan H. Franzblau, Fayetteville State University; M. Paz Galupo, Towson State University, and Paulette J. Leonard, University of Central Arkansas. We appreciate the support and encouragement of our partners: Steve Gordon, Richard DeBro, Cora Gamulo and Victor McFrazier. Anne Peplau’s participation in a faculty seminar sponsored by the Ford Foundation Ethnic Women’s Curriculum Transformation Project at UCLA in 1989 provided a valuable introduction to scholarship on gender, culture, and ethnicity.

About the Editors

Letitia Anne Peplau is professor of psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Anne received her BA in psychology from Brown University and her PhD in social psychology from Harvard University. In 1973 she began teaching at UCLA, where she has developed both undergraduate and graduate courses on the psychology of gender. Long active in women's studies, Anne has served as co-director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and as director of the graduate program in social psychology. A past president of the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships, Anne is the 1997 recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Anne has published numerous articles and book chapters on such topics as friendship, heterosexual dating, homosexual relationships, social power, loneliness, and social support. Her other books include *Sociocultural Perspectives in Social Psychology* (with Shelley E. Taylor), *Social Psychology* (with Shelley E. Taylor and David O. Sears), *Loneliness: A Sourcebook of Current Theory, Research, and Therapy* (with Daniel Perlman), *Close Relationships* (with Harold H. Kelley, et al.), and an introductory text in *Psychology* (with Zick Rubin and Peter Salovey).

Sheri Chapman DeBro received her BA with departmental honors in psychology from UCLA. Her honors thesis earned the Outstanding Paper Award for Undergraduate Research given by the Western Psychological Association. Sheri received her PhD in social psychology from Claremont Graduate University, where she studied the sexual relationships of heterosexual women and men. She has published research articles and book chapters on heterosexual dating and the use of condoms to promote safer sex. Currently a visiting scholar at UCLA, Sheri has taught courses on the psychology of gender through UCLA Extension and participated in several "Teaching of the Psychology of Women" Workshops sponsored by Division 35 of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Rosemary C. Veniegas received her BA in psychology with a minor in women's studies from the University of Hawai'i. She is currently a PhD student in social psychology at UCLA, conducting doctoral research on the joint influence of ethnic identity and gender identity on women's reactions to perceived discrimination. Her dissertation research is funded by a grant from the UCLA Institute of American Cultures. Rosemary's research interests include discrimination related to gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. In 1997 Rosemary received the Student Research Award given by the Association for Women in Psychology and the Division on the Psychology of Women of the APA for her journal article "Power and the Quality of Same-Sex Friendships." A past recipient of an APA Minority Research Training Fellowship, Rosemary is currently the graduate student mentor for underrepresented

students participating in the UCLA Psychology Department's undergraduate research training program.

Pamela L. Taylor received her BA in psychology in 1993 from Johnson C. Smith University, a historically Black university located in Charlotte, North Carolina. She received her Ph.D. in social psychology at UCLA in June 1998. Pamela's research has examined the combined influence of gender and ethnicity on group identity, group consciousness, perceived discrimination, and political attitudes. Previously, she received a minority fellowship award from the National Science Foundation. Pamela received a dissertation fellowship from UCLA's Center for African American Studies to complete her study of the impact of gender roles on the marital attitudes of single African Americans.

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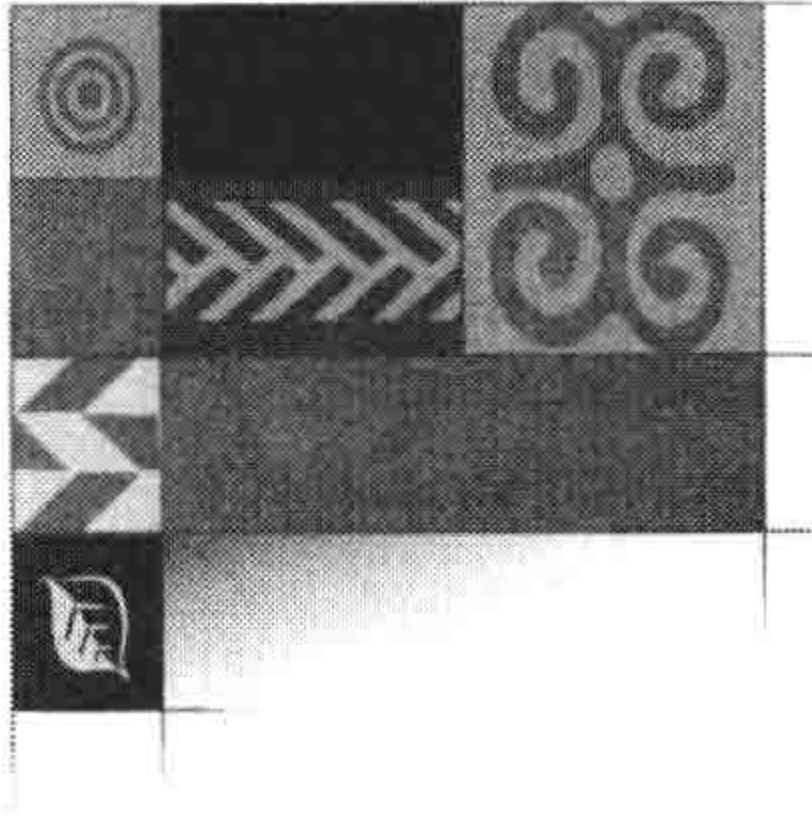
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Guide to Resources About Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity

Rosemary C. Veniegas

Pamela L. Taylor

Letitia Anne Peplau

We hope that the articles in this anthology will promote interest in the interrelationships among gender, ethnicity, and culture. This guide presents a variety of resources that can enrich understanding of the lives of women and men from diverse cultural backgrounds. The guide begins with online computer resources offering information about ethnic minority and feminist topics. Next we provide brief descriptions of instructional films and videos that explore important aspects of women's and men's lives both in the United States and in other countries. The subsequent section describes fiction and biographies that offer vivid examples of the life experiences of women and men from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Next we list currently available bibliographies about research on gender and ethnic minority populations in the United States. The concluding sections offer many suggestions about professional books and journals relevant to the study of gender, culture, and ethnicity.

Computer and Online Resources

The Web sites and online resources listed in this section were located using Netscape Navigator in April 1998. As with many electronic sources, these addresses may change. The Web sites are listed alphabetically by topic.

African American Male Research This Web site provides summaries of the latest social science research on African American men. The site also includes information on economic, legislative, and political developments relevant to African American men's lives. Web site

<http://www.tomco.net/~afrimale/>

American Indian Institute This organization manages the Native American Research Information Service, a computerized database listing published and unpublished research from 1969 to the present on American Indians. For information contact the University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education, 555 Constitution Street, Suite 237, Norman, OK 73072-7820; phone (405) 325-4127; fax (405) 325-7757; e-mail aii@cce.occe.ou.edu. This Web site charges a fee for searches. Web site <http://www.occe.ou.edu/aii/>

Asian American Studies Resources This site provides numerous links to information on Asian American articles and to research institutes and relevant organizations. Web site <http://www.lib.uci.edu/home/collect/interdis/asamer.html>

Chicano/Latino Network This site provides information on Chicano/Latino issues including health, sexuality, literature, and events. A separate Web site provides information on issues relevant to Chicanas/Latinas. Web sites <http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu> **and** <http://clnet.ucr.edu/>

Resources for African American Women This site provides links to sites offering information about African American women from both feminist sources and African American sources. Web site <http://www.uic.edu/~vjpitch/>

South Asian Women's Network This site has information relevant to south Asian women, including news, events, organizations, books, films, and health. Web site <http://www.umiacs.umd.edu/users/sawweb/sawnet/>

Womanist Studies Consortium This Web site provides links to sites by and for women of color. Topics covered include activism, media, and health. Web site <http://ash.cc.swarthmore.edu/capstone/w.color.html>

Womanist Theory and Research This Web site is a forum for exchanging feminist research, theory, and ideas among women-of-color scholars and students in the humanities, social sciences, education, theology, law, medicine, politics, journalism, art, information technologies, and telecommunications. Web site <http://www.uga.edu/~womanist>

Films and Audiovisual Material

A growing number of films address issues of gender, culture, and ethnicity. Several successful wide-release movies are available in local video-rental stores. These include *Boyz 'n the Hood*; *Eat, Drink, Man, Woman*; *Mi Familia (My Family)*; *Selena*; and *Waiting to Exhale*. This section provides a sampling of the many instructional videos available for rental or purchase. The catalogs and brochures of many film distributors now categorize their offerings by gender and by ethnicity.

Anderson, M. (Director). (1970). ***I am somebody***. 28 minutes. This video chronicles a 1969 strike by 400 Black women hospital workers in South Carolina seeking union recognition and wage increases. After 113 days and several confrontations with the National Guard and the U.S. government, the hospital met the striking women's requests. This is useful for discussions about employment and the influence of socio-economic status on women's lives. (Available from First Run/Icarus Films, 153 Waverly Place, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10014; phone [212] 727-1711)

Bread and Roses Cultural Project (Producer). (1997). ***Women of hope: Latinas abriendo camino***. 28 minutes. Twelve Latinas in the U.S. are profiled, including Miriam Colon, founder of the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, and Sandra Cisneros, the noted writer. The women share their life stories and the challenges they faced in pursuing their goals. A study guide is available for purchase. (Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053; phone [800] 257-5126; fax [609] 275-3767)

Choy, C. (Producer/Director), Kim, E. (Producer), & Kim-Gibson, D. S. (Producer/Director). (1993). ***Sa-I-Gu: From Korean women's perspectives***. 36 minutes. This video includes interviews with Korean American women whose family businesses were destroyed in the 1992 Los Angeles riots. This video is relevant to discussions of ethnic relations and racism in the U.S. (Available from Crosscurrent Media, 346 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; phone [415] 552-9550)

Cross-cultural comparison: Gender roles. (1994). 120 minutes. This two-part video discusses women's roles in Hindu and Islamic cultures and compares institutionalized attempts to shape gender roles across several cultures, including China, the former Soviet Union, and Sweden. (Available from Insight Media, 2162 Broadway, New York, NY 10024; phone [212] 721-6316; fax [212] 799-5309)

Egansteiner, E. (1996). ***The dream becomes a reality(?)***. 43 minutes. This video documents the experiences of six young women who fought in the 30-year struggle for Eritrean independence from Ethiopia. They discuss gender equality in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, their combat experiences, and their views on women's roles. This video is relevant to discussions of women in combat and gender behavior across cultures. (Available from University of California Extension Center for Media and Independent Learning, 2000 Center Street, 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704; phone [510] 642-0460)

Geddes, C. (Director). (1989). ***Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief***. 29 minutes. Five Native American women talk about their careers: a band leader, an employment counselor, a government official, a deck hand on a fishing boat, and a lawyer. The women discuss the importance for their careers of Native spiritual beliefs, rituals, and art. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Genasci, S., & Velasco, D. (Directors). (1990). ***Troubled harvest***. 30 minutes. This award-winning video depicts the lives of Mexican and Central American women who

harvest crops in the United States. They are separated from their families by U.S. immigration policies and are often exposed to dangerous pesticides. This video is relevant to discussions of immigrant women and work. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Great Black women. (1997). 52 minutes. Black women leaders, including Coretta Scott King, Shirley Chisholm, and Oprah Winfrey are featured in this video about how Black women have achieved success in spite of adversity. (Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053; phone [800] 257-5126; fax [609] 275-3767)

Johnson, A. L. (Director). (1996). **Evelyn Williams.** 29 minutes. This documentary chronicles the life of a woman who struggled against race and class oppression. She describes her experiences with the Ku Klux Klan, the U.S. military, and aggressive land developers. (Available from Appalshop Video, 360EV Madison Street, Whitesburg, KY 41858; phone [606] 633-0108)

Latina women. (1992). 26 minutes. This video explores the diversity of experiences of Latina women. Topics include work, child rearing, dual-earner families, machismo, Latina feminism, and Latina professionals. (Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053; phone [800] 257-5126; fax [609] 275-3767)

Marriage and the Chinese family. 30 minutes. This video introduces viewers to marriage and child-rearing practices in mainland China. Topics include the high valuation of male children and changes in gender roles since the Communist takeover of 1949. (Available from Insight Media, 2162 Broadway, New York, NY 10024; phone [212] 721-6316; fax [212] 799-5309)

Nakasako, S. (1984). **Talking history.** 30 minutes. This video uses oral histories and film footage to describe the experiences of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Laotian women who immigrated to America. (Available from Crosscurrent Media, 346 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; phone [415] 552-9550)

Not a job for a nice Jewish girl: On becoming a woman rabbi. (1997). 60 minutes. This video portrays a young woman who became one of only three female rabbis in Australia. Her experiences in Judaism are relevant to discussions of women and organized religion. (Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053; phone [800] 257-5126; fax [609] 275-3767)

Ong, S. (Producer). (1992). **Because this is about love: A portrait of gay and lesbian marriage.** 28 minutes. This video depicts the lives of five gay and lesbian couples from various ethnic backgrounds. (Available from Filmmakers Library, 124 E. 40th Street, Suite 901, New York, NY 10016; phone [212] 808-4980; fax [212] 808-4983)

Onwurah, N. (Director). (1993). ***And I still rise***. 30 minutes. This video examines stereotypes of Black women's sexuality as depicted in popular culture. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Queer son. (1995). 48 minutes. The parents of gay and lesbian children from different ethnic backgrounds react to their children's sexual orientations. (Available from Frameline, 346 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-3809; phone [415] 703-8654)

The politics of love: In Black and White. 33 minutes. American college-student couples talk about the trials and joys of being in interethnic relationships. Also included are interviews with Black and White students who oppose interracial dating. (Available from Insight Media, 2162 Broadway, New York, NY 10024; phone [212] 721-6316; fax [212] 799-5309)

Pozzan, C. (Director). (1990). ***As the mirror burns***. 30 minutes. This video shows Vietnamese women who participated in guerrilla activities during the war in Vietnam. It can be used to discuss the impact of war on women's roles. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Quaregna, P., & Souleymane, M. (Directors). (1995). ***Women of the Sahel***. 52 minutes. In the Sahel region of Nigeria, women have major responsibility for the economic and physical survival of their families. Their husbands frequently leave for seasonal work in other regions. Women manufacture goods, establish cooperative organizations, and support one another. (Available from First Run/Icarus Films, 153 Waverly Place, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10014; phone [212] 727-1711)

Saeed-Vafa, M. (Director). (1994). ***A Tajik woman***. 20 minutes. This video explores the experiences of Muslim women from Afghanistan and Iran who now live in the United States. The women talk about war, revolution, the loss of their homeland, and the challenges of following fundamentalist Islamic values. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Sanchez-Padilla, B. (Director). (1993). ***De mujer a mujer (From woman to woman)***. 46 minutes. Latinas discuss their experiences and views on sexuality, male-female relationships, teen pregnancy, and gay identity. (Available from Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway, Suite 500 D, New York, NY 10013; phone [212] 925-0606)

Sex and marriage. (1994). 30 minutes. This video examines customs and rituals related to sex and marriage in several Western and non-Western cultures. It also explores cultural and economic explanations about the structure of marriage and sexuality. (Available from Insight Media, 2162 Broadway, New York, NY 10024; phone [212] 721-6316; fax [212] 799-5309)