

**Intersectionality Seminars
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Aims

This series of seminars will explore intersectional theorisation to make sense of lived experiences rooted in multiple and intersecting oppressions. They will give an overview of some of the theoretical discussions surrounding intersectionality, an organising concept to analyse and interrogate categories of social identities such as gender, race, age, sexual orientation, disability and class, as well as systems of oppression. The seminars will provide a forum for students to examine their own positioning as well as engage in a critical reflexive discussion about structures of power. The aim of the seminars is to interrogate how race, gender and social class are all factors that intersect in contextual and fluid ways.

1.What is Intersectionality

The focus of this seminar is to chart the development of intersectionality to trace its roots in black feminism and critical race theory, to provide a contextual backdrop for the theory. I will give an overview of the emergence of the term intersectionality, and summarise the theoretical concepts underpinning the theory.

2.Intersectionality for Understanding Misogynoir

This seminar explores misogynoir - the intersection of anti-black racism and misogyny - to understand the racialising of black women's gendered experiences. It offers an intersectional exploration of multiple axes of differences that are interacting and reinforcing each other, and therefore the importance of a theoretical framework to make sense of the structural conditions that give rise to the racial and gendered dimensions of the oppression experienced by black women.

3. Intersectionality as an organising tool

This seminar looks at how intersectionality has become one of the most influential feminist theory and has been used widely as an organising and political tool by feminist and race scholars in different academic disciplines, as well as by activists in social justice movements for equality, to identify and interrogate axes of social inequalities for marginalised groups with intersectional identities.

4. Using Intersectionality in the gender based violence Frame

In this seminar I employ intersectionality as a critical lens to interrogate the ways that race, gender, class and sexuality impact black women's experiences of gender-based violence. In particular, it is argued that multi-faceted reflections are required to understand how the social location of black women is crucial in shaping their experiences of gender-based violence. The seminar will interrogate how the violence experienced by black women may result from the marginalised and oppressed positions they inhabit.

5. Intersectionality as a Pedagogical Tool in Teaching

This seminar addresses how intersectional approaches can be used as a pedagogical tool to teach about a range of topics in communication. In particular, the seminar will explore how media scholars, researchers and practitioners may use an intersectional framework to ask different kinds of questions and facilitate deeper conversations about the intersections of multiple forms of oppression that structure the lived experiences of marginalised groups. The seminar will also provide examples of the pedagogical strategies that can be used in the classroom setting in the teaching of students for self-awareness and skills development, and especially for addressing difficult and emotionally-charged topics such as racism, misogyny or homophobia.

6. Intersectionality and Research Methodology

In this seminar the focus is on how intersectionality can be used in research in research methodologies. The seminar will use the key principles of intersectionality to help students understand the complexities of practices involved in research; to understand the ethical issues involved in research; to develop their capacity to critically evaluate research findings and their own practice; and to evaluate research drawing on anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive perspectives. Examples drawn from a wide range of research studies will be used to provide some practical ideas for how an intersectional approach could be utilised in research, including studies on teenage mothers, child neglect in affluent families and black mothers' responses to child sexual abuse.

7. Intersectionality – Theory and Praxis

The aim of this session is to highlight some of the ways that racism manifested; from racial microaggressions, to structural oppression. Using intersectionality, we will examine racial inequities embedded and perpetuated by institutional policies and practices and considered ways of addressing the power imbalances that are encountered. Thus, we will engage in praxis, defined by Freire (1970/2000) as "reflection and action directed at the structures to be transformed".

Method

Through journal writing and discussion, we will examine students' racial identities and experiences of racism in light of our other social identities through the lens of intersectionality. We will subject their experiences—as activists, media practitioners,

and researchers—to a critical gaze and consider the ways our thoughts, feelings, and actions could reinforce or challenge racism and other forms of oppression

Students will be asked to do journaling about positionalities and intersectionalities in the learning process throughout the seminars. In this final seminar, they will be asked to share some of their learning, which will be followed by group discussions among students.

Journaling Questions:

- Thinking about your own positionalities and social location and their intersections, how do these influence how you navigate the learning environment?
- What are the positionalities and intersectionalities represented in the classroom?
- How do these positionalities and intersectionalities influence the learning?
- Describe goals and aspirations for yourself in integrating critical intersectionality thinking in your life and learning.