

1: Introduction to Modern Literary Theory

A feminist theory of inequality that argues that women may claim equality with men on the basis of an essential human capacity for reasoned moral agency, that gender inequality is the result of patriarchal and sexist patterning of the division of labor, and that gender equality can be produced by transforming the division of labor through the.

Those historians use the label " protofeminist " to describe earlier movements. The second wave campaigned for legal and social equality for women. The third wave is a continuation of, and a reaction to, the perceived failures of second-wave feminism, which began in the s. First-wave feminism After selling her home, Emmeline Pankhurst , pictured in New York City in , travelled constantly, giving speeches throughout Britain and the United States. In the Netherlands, Wilhelmina Drucker " fought successfully for the vote and equal rights for women through political and feminist organizations she founded. Simone Veil " , former French Minister of Health " She made easier access to contraceptive pills and legalized abortion "75 " which was her greatest and hardest achievement. Louise Weiss along with other Parisian suffragettes in The newspaper headline reads "The Frenchwoman Must Vote. In the UK and eventually the US, it focused on the promotion of equal contract, marriage, parenting, and property rights for women. By the end of the 19th century, a number of important steps had been made with the passing of legislation such as the UK Custody of Infants Act which introduced the Tender years doctrine for child custody arrangement and gave woman the right of custody of their children for the first time. For example, Victoria passed legislation in , New South Wales in , and the remaining Australian colonies passed similar legislation between and This was followed by Australia granting female suffrage in In this was extended to all women over These women were influenced by the Quaker theology of spiritual equality, which asserts that men and women are equal under God. The term first wave was coined retroactively to categorize these western movements after the term second-wave feminism began to be used to describe a newer feminist movement that focused on fighting social and cultural inequalities, as well political inequalities. In , Qasim Amin , considered the "father" of Arab feminism, wrote The Liberation of Women, which argued for legal and social reforms for women. The Consultative Assembly of Algiers of proposed on 24 March to grant eligibility to women but following an amendment by Fernand Grenier , they were given full citizenship, including the right to vote. In May , following the November elections , the sociologist Robert Verdier minimized the " gender gap " , stating in Le Populaire that women had not voted in a consistent way, dividing themselves, as men, according to social classes. During the baby boom period, feminism waned in importance. Wars both World War I and World War II had seen the provisional emancipation of some women, but post-war periods signalled the return to conservative roles. Feminists in these countries continued to fight for voting rights. In Switzerland , women gained the right to vote in federal elections in ; [49] but in the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden women obtained the right to vote on local issues only in , when the canton was forced to do so by the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland. Photograph of American women replacing men fighting in Europe, Feminists continued to campaign for the reform of family laws which gave husbands control over their wives. Although by the 20th century coverture had been abolished in the UK and the US, in many continental European countries married women still had very few rights. Second-wave feminism is a feminist movement beginning in the early s [58] and continuing to the present; as such, it coexists with third-wave feminism. Second-wave feminism is largely concerned with issues of equality beyond suffrage, such as ending gender discrimination. The feminist activist and author Carol Hanisch coined the slogan "The Personal is Political", which became synonymous with the second wave. The book is widely credited with sparking the beginning of second-wave feminism in the United States. Third-wave feminism Feminist, author and social activist bell hooks b. So I write this as a plea to all women, especially women of my generation: Turn that outrage into political power. Do not vote for them unless they work for us. I am not a post-feminism feminist. I am the Third Wave. This perspective argues that research and theory treats women and the feminist movement as insignificant and refuses to see traditional science as unbiased.

2: Feminism - Wikipedia

This textbook introduction to current feminist theories maps the development of feminist thought and suggests future directions. Reflecting the diversity of feminist theory, and its multiple practices and approaches, the chapters range across the humanit.

Truth argued that if a woman of color can perform tasks that were supposedly limited to men, then any woman of any color could perform those same tasks. After her arrest for illegally voting, Susan B. Anthony gave a speech within court in which she addressed the issues of language within the constitution documented in her publication, "Speech after Arrest for Illegal voting" in Anthony questioned the authoritative principles of the constitution and its male gendered language. She raised the question of why women are accountable to be punished under law but they cannot use the law for their own protection women could not vote, own property, nor themselves in marriage. She also critiqued the constitution for its male gendered language and questioned why women should have to abide by laws that do not specify women. Nancy Cott makes a distinction between modern feminism and its antecedents, particularly the struggle for suffrage. In the United States she places the turning point in the decades before and after women obtained the vote in "She argues that the prior woman movement was primarily about woman as a universal entity, whereas over this year period it transformed itself into one primarily concerned with social differentiation, attentive to individuality and diversity. Politically this represented a shift from an ideological alignment comfortable with the right, to one more radically associated with the left. In this book and her essay, "Woman: For women it is not a question of asserting themselves as women, but of becoming full-scale human beings. Therefore, woman must regain subject, to escape her defined role as "other", as a Cartesian point of departure. Ironically, feminist philosophers have had to extract de Beauvoir herself from out of the shadow of Jean-Paul Sartre to fully appreciate her. The resurgence of feminist activism in the late s was accompanied by an emerging literature of concerns for the earth and spirituality, and environmentalism. This in turn created an atmosphere conducive to reigniting the study of and debate on matricentricity, as a rejection of determinism, such as Adrienne Rich [22] and Marilyn French [23] while for socialist feminists like Evelyn Reed, [24] patriarchy held the properties of capitalism. Feminist psychologists, such as Jean Baker Miller, sought to bring a feminist analysis to previous psychological theories, proving that "there was nothing wrong with women, but rather with the way modern culture viewed them". The first she calls "feminist critique" where the feminist reader examines the ideologies behind literary phenomena. The second Showalter calls "Gynocritics" where the "woman is producer of textual meaning" including "the psychodynamics of female creativity; linguistics and the problem of a female language; the trajectory of the individual or collective female literary career and literary history". She also criticized it for not taking account of the situation for women outside the west. Feminist psychoanalysis deconstructed the phallic hypotheses regarding the Unconscious. Julia Kristeva, Bracha Ettinger and Luce Irigaray developed specific notions concerning unconscious sexual difference, the feminine and motherhood, with wide implications for film and literature analysis. Additionally, these are also debates which shape feminist theory and they can be applied interchangeably in the arguments of feminist theorists.

Bodies[edit] In western thought, the body has been historically associated solely with women, whereas men have been associated with the mind. The standard and contemporary sex and gender system[edit] The standard sex determination and gender model consists of evidence based on the determined sex and gender of every individual and serve as norms for societal life. Occasionally, mutations occur during the sex-determining process. When this happens, the fetus becomes a hermaphrodite. Studies into biological sex-determining systems also have began working towards connecting certain gender conducts such as behaviors, actions, and desires with sex-determinism. Please help improve it by rewriting it in an encyclopedic style. July Learn how and when to remove this template message The socially-biasing children sex and gender model broadens the horizons of the sex and gender ideologies. It revises the ideology of sex to be a social construct which is not limited to either male or female. Humans today, typically doctors decide how small a penis has to be, or how unusual a combination of parts has to be, before it counts as intersex". The ideology of

gender remains a social construct but is not as strict and fixed. Instead, gender is easily malleable, and is forever changing. In conclusion, the contemporary sex gender model is accurate because both sex and gender are rightly seen as social constructs inclusive of the wide spectrum of sexes and genders and in which nature and nurture are interconnected.

Epistemologies[edit] The generation and production of knowledge has been an important part of feminist theory and is at the centre of discussions on feminist epistemology. It theorizes that from personal experience comes knowledge which helps each individual look at things from a different insight. Central to feminism is that women are systematically subordinated, and bad faith exists when women surrender their agency to this subordination, e.

Intersectionality Intersectionality is the examination of various ways in which people are oppressed, based on the relational web of dominating factors of race, sex, class, nation and sexual orientation. Intersectionality "describes the simultaneous, multiple, overlapping, and contradictory systems of power that shape our lives and political options". While this theory can be applied to all people, and more particularly all women, it is specifically mentioned and studied within the realms of black feminism. Patricia Hill Collins argues that black women in particular, have a unique perspective on the oppression of the world as unlike white women, they face both racial and gender oppression simultaneously, among other factors. This debate raises the issue of understanding the oppressive lives of women that are not only shaped by gender alone but by other elements such as racism, classism, ageism, heterosexism, ableism etc.

Feminist language reform , Gender-neutral language , and Category: Such masculinized language that feminist theorists address is the use of, for example, "God the Father" which is looked upon as a way of designating the sacred as solely men or, in other words, biblical language glorifies men through all of the masculine pronouns like "he" and "him" and addressing God as a "He". Feminist theorists attempt to reclaim and redefine women through re-structuring language. For example, feminist theorists have used the term "womyn" instead of "women". Some feminist theorists find solace in changing titles of unisex jobs for example, police officer versus policeman or mail carrier versus mailman. Some feminist theorists have reclaimed and redefined such words as "dyke" and "bitch" and others have invested redefining knowledge into feminist dictionaries.

Psychology[edit] Feminist psychology is a form of psychology centered on societal structures and gender. Feminist psychology critiques the fact that historically psychological research has been done from a male perspective with the view that males are the norm. It incorporates gender and the ways women are affected by issues resulting from it. Ethel Dench Puffer Howes was one of the first women to enter the field of psychology. One major psychological theory, relational-cultural theory, is based on the work of Jean Baker Miller, whose book *Toward a New Psychology of Women* proposes that "growth-fostering relationships are a central human necessity and that disconnections are the source of psychological problems".

Psychoanalysis and Feminism and the Oedipus complex Psychoanalytic feminism and feminist psychoanalysis are based on Freud and his psychoanalytic theories, but they also supply an important critique of it. It maintains that gender is not biological but is based on the psycho-sexual development of the individual, but also that sexual difference and gender are different notions. Psychoanalytical feminists believe that gender inequality comes from early childhood experiences, which lead men to believe themselves to be masculine, and women to believe themselves feminine. It is further maintained that gender leads to a social system that is dominated by males, which in turn influences the individual psycho-sexual development. As a solution it was suggested by some to avoid the gender-specific structuring of the society coeducation. Other feminist psychoanalysts and feminist theorists whose contributions have enriched the field through an engagement with psychoanalysis are Jessica Benjamin, [48] Jacqueline Rose, [49] Ranjana Khanna, [50] and Shoshana Felman.

3: Contemporary Feminist Theories by Stevi Jackson

Contemporary Feminist Theories was inspired by a dissatisfaction with existing introductions, which often fail to fully track change and capture diversity within feminist thought. The volume draws on the expertise of a range of Western feminists in order to reflect the breadth of feminist theory as well as shifts within it.

Structuralism and Semiotics Structuralism Structuralism is a way of thinking about the world which is predominantly concerned with the perceptions and description of structures. At its simplest, structuralism claims that the nature of every element in any given situation has no significance by itself, and in fact is determined by all the other elements involved in that situation. The full significance of any entity cannot be perceived unless and until it is integrated into the structure of which it forms a part Hawkes, p. Structuralists believe that all human activity is constructed, not natural or "essential. Semiology Semiotics, simply put, is the science of signs. Semiology proposes that a great diversity of our human action and productions--our bodily postures and gestures, the the social rituals we perform, the clothes we wear, the meals we serve, the buildings we inhabit--all convey "shared" meanings to members of a particular culture, and so can be analyzed as signs which function in diverse kinds of signifying systems. Linguistics the study of verbal signs and structures is only one branch of semiotics but supplies the basic methods and terms which are used in the study of all other social sign systems Abrams, p. Binary Opposition - "pairs of mutually-exclusive signifiers in a paradigm set representing categories which are logically opposed and which together define a complete universe of discourse relevant ontological domain , e. In such oppositions each term necessarily implies its opposite and there is no middle term" Daniel Chandler. The distinction is important because Saussure contended that the relationship between signifier and signified is arbitrary; the only way we can distinguish meaning is by difference one sign or word differs from another. Instead, meaning--the interpretation of a sign--can exist only in relationship with other signs. Selden and Widdowson use the sign system of traffic lights as an example. The color red, in that system, signifies "stop," even though "there is no natural bond between red and stop" Meaning is derived entirely through difference, "a system of opposites and contrasts," e. Northwestern UP, Hill and Wang, The Pleasure of the Text. Structuralism, Linguistics, and the Study of Literature. U of California P, Jefferson, Anne and David Robey. Revolution in Poetic Language and Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art. After the New Criticism. The Raw and the Cooked. John and Doreen Weighman. Semiotics of Poetry Peirce, Charles. Values in a Universe of Chance: Selected Writings of Charles S. The Morphology of the Folktale. U of Texas P, Course in General Linguistics. The Subject of Semiotics. A Survey of Semiotics. A Structural Approach to a Literary Genre.

4: Feminist Theory - Sociology - Oxford Bibliographies

Feminist theory is the extension of feminism into theoretical, fictional, or philosophical discourse. It aims to understand the nature of gender inequality. It examines women's and men's social roles, experiences, interests, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, such as anthropology and sociology, communication, media.

More Though feminist thought was largely ignored in mainstream social theory until the last few decades, feminist social theory has a history as long and storied as feminist movements themselves. First-wave feminism was characterized by a focus on officially mandated inequalities between men and women, such as the legal barring of women from voting, property rights, employment, equal rights in marriage, and positions of political power and authority. Finally, what is called third-wave feminism is generally associated with feminist politics and movements that began in the 1990s and continue on to today. Third-wave feminism emerged out of a critique of the politics of the second wave, as many feminists felt that earlier generations had over-generalized the experiences of white, middle-class, heterosexual women and ignored and even suppressed the viewpoints of women of color, the poor, gay, lesbian, and transgender people, and women from the non-Western world. Third-wave feminists have critiqued essential or universal notions of womanhood, and focus on issues of racism, homophobia, and Eurocentrism as part of their feminist agenda. Feminist social theory has influenced and been influenced by the agendas and struggles of each of these waves. Moreover, feminist social theorists in each wave have critiqued the male biases implicit in social theory itself, helping to construct social theory that draws on rather than excludes the experiences of women. Ultimately, if feminism, broadly understood, is concerned with improving the conditions of women in society, feminist social theory is about developing ideas, concepts, philosophies, and other intellectual programs that help meet that agenda. Feminist social theory, like any theoretical tradition, is best seen as a continuing conversation of many voices and viewpoints. While it is undeniable that feminist political movements have made tremendous gains for women over the last years, social scientific evidence demonstrates that there are still large inequalities between men and women when it comes to areas like income and wealth, political power and opportunities, legal rights, sexual assault, rape, domestic violence, and overall status in society. This is even more the case in countries outside of the United States and Europe. As long as gender inequality and oppression exists, feminism and feminist thought will continue to matter to millions of people throughout the world. Moreover, feminist intellectuals continue to develop cutting-edge and nuanced understandings of the social world that enrich the power and possibilities of social theory writ large. Dorothy Smith Dorothy Smith is a Canadian sociologist best known for her critiques of male bias within social theory and for the development of institutional ethnography. Smith is renowned for developing a distinctively feminist-oriented sociology, arguing that the abstract, all-encompassing theories common in sociological thought are problematic in that they come from an implicit male perspective that ignores or suppresses the experiences of women. Smith advocates beginning inquiry not in the realm of abstract theoretical systems but from the standpoint of women in their everyday lives. A Sociology for People. For example, Collins argues that the gender inequality that Black women have historically experienced is related to but qualitatively different from the gender inequality experienced by White women. This is not because of essential differences between Black and White women, but because White women have historically been privileged racially while Black women have been dominated through race and gender. Judith Butler Considered by many to be the most important feminist theorist writing today, the philosopher Judith Butler first came to prominence through her provocative book Gender Trouble. Instead, drawing on the ideas of Foucault and the philosopher of language, J. Austin, Butler argues that the seeming reality or naturalness of gender, sex, and sexuality is actually a product of the ways we act them out in conformity to cultural languages and norms. In addition to her groundbreaking work on gender and sexual identity, Butler has also written on issues central to moral and political philosophy. She teaches at the University of Californiaâ€”Berkeley.

5: Social Theory Rewired | New Connections to Classical and Contemporary Perspectives

CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORIES pdf

Feminist theory has grown into a vast field. Feminist writers, thinkers, and activists have produced an often bewildering body of knowledge concerned with difference and diversity, identity and inequality, ethnicity, race, and class, as well as gender.

6: Contemporary Feminist Theory : Women's and Gender Studies : Courses : Athabasca University

Contemporary feminist theory analyzes by being honest and personal, and through this approach it proves that feminism is still very much needed in our world. While the approach of today's feminist leaders differs from those of second-wave feminism, the powerful statement "the personal is political" from that time period still holds true.

7: Feminist theory - Wikipedia

Feminist theory is a major branch of theory within sociology that shifts its assumptions, analytic lens, and topical focus away from the male viewpoint and experience and toward that of women. In doing so, feminist theory shines a light on social problems, trends, and issues that are otherwise.

8: Contemporary Feminist Theories - Google Books

Overview. Women's and Gender Studies Contemporary Feminist Theory is intended to offer both an overview of feminist theories and women's movements in Canada and elsewhere in the world and a critical discussion of varieties of feminism as they pertain to issues such as gender violence, reproduction, work, families, and sexuality.

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