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# Understanding DIVERSITY

Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Religion

INTRODUCTORY TO SOCIAL SCIENCE AND CULTURE

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## Contents

- ▶ Human Differences
  - ▶ Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Religion
- ▶ Marginalisation and Discrimination
  - ▶ Racism, Violence against Women, Xenophobia
- ▶ Respecting and Recognising Diversity

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## Human Differences

- ✧ Some Categories: Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Class and Religion
- ✧ Stuart Hall (1997):
  - what really matters is not the ways in which human differences can be measured, but with how these differences are being used in our culture, what they signify, what they have come to mean

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## Race

- ▶ A great division of mankind, characterized as a group by the sharing of a certain combination of features, which have been derived from their common descent, and constitute a vague physical background, usually more or less obscured by individual variations, and realized best in a composite picture
  - ▶ Based on biological, physical and genetic differences.
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## Slavery, Race and Colonialism

- ▶ Category of Race imbued with physical and genetic differences shaping different human capacities to develop.
- ▶ Case of the Black African Negro
  - ▶ Having no human capacity to develop
  - ▶ Fate of being slave and/or;
  - ▶ Colonized by foreigners
- ▶ Case Asia: The Lazy Native of Malay

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## Ethnicity

- ▶ A socially defined category of people who identify with each other based on a shared social experience or ancestry.
  - ▶ Membership of an ethnic group tends to be associated with shared cultural heritage, ancestry, history, homeland, language (dialect) or ideology, and with symbolic systems such as religion, mythology and ritual, cuisine, dressing style, physical appearance, etc.
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## Ethno-Nationalism

- ▶ Ethnicity has something to do with in-out identification, group memberships, solidarity and belonging.
- ▶ In Modern era, Ethnicity bases the creation of Nation and nationalism.
- ▶ For Multi-ethnic National, different ethnic groups become causes for separation and/or disintegration.
- ▶ Yugoslavia: Bosnia, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia
- ▶ United Kingdom: Northern Ireland and Scotland
- ▶ Canada: Francophone Quebec
- ▶ Indonesia: Aceh, Papua, Moluccas.

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## Gender

- ▶ Different Sexual Identity characterized by different biological-cum-sexual and reproductive organs of male and female.
  - ▶ The construction of different social roles set up on the basis of binary oppositional between men and women.
  - ▶ Men are responsible for public works including as a natural leader in the community.
  - ▶ Women are responsible for domestic work including as a natural carer for children and kid.
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## Patriarchy

- ▶ A social system in which males are the primary authority figures central to social organization, occupying roles of political leadership, moral authority, and control of property, and where fathers hold authority over women and children.
- ▶ It implies the institutions of male rule and privilege, and entails female subordination.
- ▶ Many patriarchal societies are also patrilineal, meaning that property and title are inherited by the male lineage

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## Religion

- ▶ an organized collection of beliefs, cultural systems, and world views that relate humanity to an order of existence.
  - ▶ Many religions have narratives, symbols, and sacred histories that are intended to explain the meaning of life and/or to explain the origin of life or the Universe.
  - ▶ From their beliefs about the cosmos and human nature, people derive morality, ethics, religious laws or a preferred lifestyle.
  - ▶ Religions may have organized behaviors, clergy, a definition of what constitutes adherence or membership, holy places, and scriptures.
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## An eternal religious conflict?

- ▶ The Battle within Three Abrahamic traditions: the Jews, Christians and Muslims.
  - ▶ The Crusade
  - ▶ Clash of Civilisation and War on Terror
- ▶ Hindus vs Muslims in India
- ▶ Buddhists vs (Rohingya) Muslims in Myanmar
- ▶ Tibetan Buddhists vs Chinese Confucians
- ▶ Sunni Muslims vs Shiah Muslims in Indonesia

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## Marginalisation and Discrimination: Racism

- ▶ Actions, practices, or beliefs that consider the human species to be divided into races with shared traits, abilities, or qualities, such as personality, intellect, morality, or other cultural behavioral characteristics, and especially the belief that races can be ranked as inherently superior or inferior to others, or that members of different races should be treated differently
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## Violence against Women

- ▶ Domestic Violence: Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation
  - ▶ Rape targeting women
  - ▶ Women exploitation
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## Xenophobia

- ▶ The irrational or unreasoned fear of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange.
  - ▶ Two Forms:
    - ▶ A fear and hate targeting a population group present within a society that is not considered part of that society;
    - ▶ A fear and hate targeting cultural elements which are considered alien
  - ▶ Islamophobia in the West especially targeting Muslim immigrants
  - ▶ In Indonesia: against non-mainstream Muslim group (Ahmadiyah & Shiah) and/or non-Muslim believers.
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## Respecting and Recognising Diversity

- ▶ Differences and Diversities of people within the society are inevitable.
  - ▶ Aware of differences in cultural-traditions, beliefs and religion, gender etc.
  - ▶ Respecting and recognizing differences by avoiding any discrimination/marginalization
  - ▶ Promoting equality by guaranteeing similar opportunity for all regardless differences.
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