

Identities

- There is a new significance of visual display of identity, which is linked to notions of 'selfhood'.
- **Youth culture:** identities such as Goth, punks, bikers, rockers etc.
- Culture can be described as a set of values and customs that is passed down through the generations.
 - Does this apply to youth culture? – yes, can be applied, and no. There are similarities with fashion and music, but values may change, customs may change between these groups.
- **Youth subcultures:** an expression of resistance, youth consumption and the patterns. Content of subcultures can and does change over time.
- **Subculture:** creates a social space for young people to exist on their own terms, highly variable. Generally mobile, mixing with wide variety of people and cultural activity and styles. To some extent, young people chose who they want to be in terms of subcultural affiliations, and while elements they want to associate with.
 - One's youth culture allegiance is just one of many positions or social identities that make up a young person. Education, class, gender identities, age, all these things also make up a young person. Not only do young people choose identities but they can also shop for them, clothes are important, can express identity through clothes,
- **Body art:** there is a symbolism attached to the way you clothe your body. Young people's bodies have become projects, actively shaped and constructed to fit particular ways and ideas.
 - Not just gang member or prison tats but on all different people of shapes and ages.
 - It structures how we act and how we perceive.
 - The main reason is the pursuit and attainment of beauty, however it may be defined. We all have different ideas of beauty
- **Agency and power**
 - Using our bodies to state a claim, getting our point across
 - Bodies are equally used by youth as sites of resistance. Tattooing, piercing
 - Challenge normative hegemonic constructions of passive femininity and beauty myths.
 - Market commodity – placement within the 'mainstream'
 - A complex socio-cultural formation that reflects through a process of embodiment.

Youth Realities

- Age categories give a common 'status'.
- Significant changes in society have occurred on a global scale – employment.
- Consider the complex world which youth inhabit, ways and boundaries into adulthood.

- **A social construct** – youth and adulthood such as
 - Marriage, ability, expectation to be married early, yet in other cultures the idea of marriage is put off till later in life.
 - Social economics, be financially independent, not relying on others.
- Subjectivity – refers to the social, economic and political framework restraints.

- **Youth shows us** -what has/hasn't changed in the world. E.g. marriage, child bearing.
 - Youth gives new meaning to careers, employment and family

- **Youth is conceptualized as a transitional period to adulthood.**
 - Achieving milestones/ crossing boundaries
 - We ignore the significance of social meanings

- **The concept of generation** – generation X, Y, Z, me, baby boomers, baby busters...
 - Significant experiences link/separate groups of people – a social generation.
 - Social generations have a cultural identity

- **Youth and the risk of society** - Individual responsibility to make choices, being proactive, flexible and mobile, important skills.
 - Young people don't rely on one job for the rest of their lives, and this gives mobility.
 - Individuals have huge responsibilities today compared to 20 years ago.
 - Young people must make choices against a social backdrop of uncertainty.
 - Youth's choices are shaped by; gender, class, ethnicity and sexuality etc. shape our choices.

- **Biological explanations for youth behaviors/actions**
 - Disruptive elements such as hormones/puberty

- **Youth subcultures are considered to be the result of inadequate socialization**
 - Mainstream means of achieving goals
 - Social inequality and change can result in problems among youth.
 - Exclusion (social) – cultural, economic, etc. youth have no interest in participating in community activity's or decision making processes, however they can become involved in community decisions, etc.
 - Youth are treated as 'objects' as opposed to active subjects.

Sexuality

- Biology – sexology/essentialism
- Social sciences – culture/ heterosexuality is socially accepted.

Sexual scripts

- Beliefs about gendered sexuality can contribute to:
 - Sexual dysfunction
 - Sexual violence towards women and gay men and women
 - Can hold disadvantages for both men and women by constructing sexual pleasure.
- Gender roles are connected with different sexual scripts
- Learned from culturally available and historically located messages
- Feminist approach to sexual script theory explores discursive practices
- Requires a balance and negotiation between 'innocence' and sexual knowingness
- Sexual scripts are read from a number of sources - media, beliefs, norms
- Foucault: contemporary sexualities are the product of particular discourses, which are articulated around a cluster of power relations.
- Subject positions – certain ways of seeing the world and certain ways of being in the world.

Sexual double standards

- The sexual double standard is a product of gender inequality
 - Privileging male sexuality
 - 'studs' and 'sluts'
 - Reinforced not just by men – but also other women, church, state, school...