

### Genes, Culture, & Gender

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Consider...

- Would you rather marry someone older or younger than yourself?
- If an adult male needs help with toileting and is out in the community with a female caregiver/helper which restroom is it most appropriate to enter?
  - Does it matter why the male needs help?
  - What if the genders were reversed?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Nature vs. Nurture

- Genetic influence on behavior, attitude, & personality.
- Environmental influence on behavior, attitude, & personality.
- Consideration of social influence on behavior through context, culture, & gender.
- Nearly all modern psychologists discuss how they interact more than which one or how much

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Human Nature and Cultural Diversity



- Evolutionary perspective emphasizes human kinship
- Cultural perspective emphasizes human diversity

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Human Nature

- **Evolutionary psychology:** focuses on context, psychological traits, & social behaviors that enhance the preservation & spread of one's genes.
  - Humans are gene-producing machines.
  - Genes predispose us to act in ways that enhance chances of surviving, underlies all behavior.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What are genes?

- Biochemical units of heredity that form our chromosomes.
  - Contain the codes that determine who we are
    - Eye, hair, & skin color
    - Athletic potential
    - Intelligence potential
- Highlighting commonalities in human nature that affords cultural diversity.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is culture?

- Enduring behaviors, ideas, attitudes, & traditions shared by a large group of people, transmitted from one generation to the next.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cultural Diversity

- Humans have the capacity to learn & adapt, which results in greater creativity in living.
  - Unique customs, languages, nonverbal communication, personal space
- All cultures have rules for accepted & expected behavior, referred to as **norms**.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Human Nature & Cultural Diversity

- **Social roles:** expectations for the ways in which people are expected to behave in specific situations.
  - Created & defined by societies in which people live
  - High- & low-status roles
  - Role reversal yields understanding

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cultural Similarities

- The underlying processes of differing behavior are much the same everywhere
  - Incest
  - Friendship
  - Facial expressions
  - Personality characteristics

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is gender?

- Characteristics, biologically or socially influenced, by which society defines male & female.
- Definitions of masculinity & femininity that are determined by ones culture
  - These socially defined expectations make up gender roles.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Gender Similarities & Differences

- Independence vs. connectedness
- Social dominance
- Aggression
- Sexuality

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Culture & Gender

- Gender roles vary with culture
- Gender roles vary over time
  - 1965 Article in Good Housekeeping
- Peer-transmitted culture

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Genes, Culture, & Gender

- What is the relationship between these three factors?
- How do these factors tie in with Social Influence?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conclusions

- Biology & culture
- Situations & persons
  - Situations affect different people differently
  - People often **choose** their situations
  - People often **create** their situations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---