

## MECS2032: Gender, Philosophy and Popular Culture - week 1 discussion questions

### Session 1: Monday

From your own knowledge/participation in popular culture, think of examples why we should study gender in popular culture?

1. Discuss the difference between performance (Goffman) and performativity (Butler).
2. Discuss how we interpret texts (negotiation, oppositional, preferred readings)
3. Is gender socially constructed? Give examples to back up your argument(s). As part of this you might want to discuss notions of fluidity and essentialist ideas.

I will draw our viewpoints together so that we all learn from each other (this is feedback)!

You have a reading from Barker on Butler. Have a go at summarising the handout from Barker – note a few key points, particularly what is your definition of queer theory. Note there is a difference between the link to the online book and Barker's latest book (but the essence of the definitions etc. are the same).

**(Session 2: Tuesday depending on time allocated for session 1)**

4. Read page 193-195 of the extract from Buikema and Tuin (2009)
5. Discuss your ideas for/against Barbie as a positive role model. See some of the role models below.



Titled Rock 'n' Royals



Barbie Eye Doctor



Barbie: Fashion



Barbie Tennis Player



Barbie: Scientist



Barbie: Bride Doll



Barbie: Ballerina



Barbie: Princess Power

(All from Mattel 2015 Best Selling dolls)

One thing you have learned from today's session.

One thing you have learned from any of the extracts given out.

## **References/Handouts**

Barker, C. and Jane, E. A. (2016) *Cultural Studies, Theory and Practice*. London, Sage, pp. 365-368.

Buikema, R. and Tuin, I. (2009) *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture*, Oxon, Routledge, pp. 193-196.

Associated Reading: Wilchins, R. (2004) *Queer Theory, Gender Theory*. California, Alyson Publications, pp. 123-139.