

INTRODUCTION

- Some ideas about Heteronormativity
- Terminology you should be familiar with

HETERONORMATIVITY

- Heterosexuality as an institution
- Seen as obligatory
- Hierarchy of sexual values
- Society rewards those higher up the hierarchy
- Those lower in the hierarchy subjected to presumptions of various kinds
- Assumes heterosexuality
- Restricts both masculinity and femininity within heterosexual matrix (Butler)
- Poststructuralist approach – destabilisation of subject and identity

THEORISING

- Need to theorise how sexuality intersects with other elements of power and subjectivity
- Race, ethnicity, class
- Heteronormativity helps deconstruct heterosexual/homosexual binary
- Different terms for analysing inequalities/exclusions regarding sexuality/gender
- Led to political action in different directions
- Heteronormativity critiques sexual norms whereas LGBTQI – minorities who need legal and social protection.

OTHER CONTEXTS

- Connects sexuality and gender norms with historical process of
- Colonisation, decolonisation, race, ethnicity, class, modernity
- Where sexual norms can be used to embody and represent the nation
- Norms may vary across time, place, culture,
- And can be reproduced, resisted, transformed, by institutions, groups and individuals
- Thus, important to examine nature of heteronormativity to understand the workings of power

REFERENCES

- Evans, M. and Williams, C. H. (2013) *Gender: The Key Concepts*. London, Routledge.