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

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

2. Discuss the difference between performance (Goffman) and performativity (Butler).

3. Discuss how we interpret texts (negotiation, oppositional, preferred readings)

4. Is gender socially constructed? Give examples to back up your argument(s).

5. Can gender really be fluid? Why/why not? (Hopefully we can discuss/debate some of these issues in class).

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(Gosling, 2018:75) ‘Some Millennials (anyone born with between 1981 and 1906_ and Generation Zs2 (beginning in 1997 as the generation after Millennials) are unshackling themselves from the tyranny of rigid cisgender conformity and are courageously exploring alternatives?

1. Do you agree/disagree? Give examples/arguments

2. Are there limitations to this?

3. What about those who are happy to be cisgender?

4. Where does the term nonbinary fit in with this?
Have a go at summarising the handout from Barker – note a few key points, particularly in relation to Butler and in relation to the headings below:

Performativity

Abjection

Drag

Queer Theory