INTRODUCTION

• Some ideas about Heteronormativity
• Terminology you should be familiar with
• Some definitions (1.42 mins)
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 3.00 mins)
• Poststructuralist approach – destabilisation of subject and identity

The Heterosexual Matrix

- In Gender Trouble, Butler defines the heterosexual matrix as “that grid of cultural intelligibility through which bodies, genders, and desires are naturalized” premised upon “a stable sex expressed through stable gender [. . .] that is epistemically and hierarchically defined through the practice of heterosexuality” (181)
THEORIZING

• 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