INTRODUCTION

- Power and associations
- Patriarchy
- Foucault/Deluze
- Pollution, purity and power
- Learning outcome 1: Show a critical understanding of gender theories with regard to a variety of popular cultural forms
POWER AND GENDER

• Power and patriarchy
• Set of power structures, social practices, institutions that disadvantage and marginalise women
• Power has to be placed in wider political and economic framework
• Intersections of gender, race, class, nation, sexuality are all important
MICHEL FOUCAULT (1926-1984)

• Power disciplines and regulates embodied subjects
• Modern power distributed through complex social networks
• Internalise and perform norms of social control
• Power involves relations
SUSAN BORDO (1947+)

• Women’s bodies rendered more docile than male bodies
• Self mastery linked to cultural and media imagery of ideal femininity
• Anorexia – embodied protest
• Resistance emerges within rather than outside of social networks of power
GENDER

• Two discrete and hierarchically ordered sexes - male/female
• Corresponding to two discrete and hierarchically ordered genres – masculinity/femininity
• Persons of one sex/gender (heteronormativity implies) should desire the person of opposite sex/gender
GENDERED IDENTITIES

• Power circulates through discourses
• We all participate
• Giles Deluze (1925-1995) – how power structures thought itself
• How we might think difference differently
• Beyond binaries of male/female, heterosexual/homosexual
• Reality not captured by representation
• In flux – always becoming
POWER PURITY DANGER

• Mary Douglas (1921-2007) 1966, Purity and danger
• Ritual cleanness and uncleanness
• Purity and pollution (10.53 mins)
• Dirt is disorder
• Rituals/purification - Power to impose order against threatening chaos
THE ABJECT

• Disgust tied up with the abject
• What exists in liminal positions, borderlines
• Kristeva (1941+) = horror of abjection
• Disgust for anything existing across the margins (inside and outside)
• Power and representations in relation to this.
• See social abjection: queer bodies (5.58 mins) and Kristeva’s ideas (6.08 mins)
SUMMARY

• Patriarchal societies – men have more power
• Foucault – power disciplines and regulates embodied subjects
• Bordo – prevalent cultural and media imagery of ideal femininity
• Challenges to the sex/gender desire hierarchy
• Deluze – positive power
• Douglas – cleanliness, dirt and power
• Kristeva – the abject and disgust
• Learning outcome 1: Show a critical understanding of gender theories with regard to a variety of popular cultural forms
• Learning outcome 2: Assess critically the ways in which gender are constituted and/or challenged in and through particular forms of culture; (you can look at any of the ideas above in relation to popular culture/gender)
REFERENCES

