

# GENDER SOCIALIZATION

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## COURSE PROJECT

- Three class project options
  - Volunteer project: 16 hours, 3-page paper
  - Photo essay: 1-2 page introduction, 10-20 photos
  - Research paper: 5-7 page paper
- All three projects have two deadlines: Feb. 20, April 10

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## BASIC MODEL OF GENDER SOCIALIZATION

1. People think boys and girls are supposed to be different
2. People treat boys and girls differently and give them different opportunities
3. The differential treatment leads to different behaviors and self-images

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MALIBU STACY

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## GENDER SOCIALIZATION: FAMILY

- Some ways parents treat boys & girls differently:
  - Describe and interact with newborns using gender stereotypes
  - Gender appropriate chores
  - Gender appropriate clothing
  - Different toys & other gifts
- Major finding: “wings” vs. “roots”
  - Boys socialized for autonomy (“wings”)
  - Girls socialized for interdependence (“roots”)

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## GENDER SOCIALIZATION: TEACHERS

- Boys get more attention than girls
- Girls penalized for violating gender stereotypes
- Girls and boys praised for different traits
- Girls and boys are separated
- Girls and boys end up in different subjects
- Girls do better in school

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## GENDER SOCIALIZATION: PEERS

- Children segregate themselves by sex
- Children sanction violators of gender norms
  - “I wouldn’t go anywhere near him.”
  - “I’d call him a sissy and make fun of him.”
  - “I’d probably hit him and take away the doll!”
  - “I would push him and call him a weirdo.”
- Children engage in cross-gender “borderwork” (Barrie Thorne)
  - Borderwork: cross-sex activity that strengthens boundaries between girls and boys
  - E.g., contests, rituals of pollution, playground invasions



Barrie Thorne

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