

Intersections between Gender, Class and Race

Roy on Gender Intersections

Time: “Time and gender intersect in the distinction between unpaid and paid labor.” Men and women measure time differently.

Space: Gendered space is not by place of residence (as with race), but with “designation of private space and public space.”

Race and class: “The ideal of white womanhood would have been virtually impossible without racial inequality” since upper-class white women hired lower-class women of other races to do their domestic work. The dominant ideology defined these women as “irresponsible and inferior because they could not live up to the white standards.” Today’s “new woman” also relies on lower-class minority women.

Staples: “Just Walk On By”

Staples describes how his walking at night frightens people. One of the meanings people give to the category “Black man” is “mugger” (as illustrated by examples from the mugging literature).

Some of his boyhood friends were “seduced by the perception of themselves as tough guys... It is, after all, only manly to embrace the power to frighten and intimidate.”

Staples has learned to send signals to passers-by that he is non-threatening, e.g., whistling classical music.